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Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 4 September 2018

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TUESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Deputy Governor and the Acting Governor letters in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letters will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letters for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bill, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of assent: 22 August 2018

A Bill for an Act to dissolve the Ipswich City Council and provide for the appointment of an interim administrator to act in place of the councillors of the Ipswich City Council and for related purposes

The Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Walter Sofronoff
Deputy Governor

22 August 2018

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 22 August 2018, from the Deputy Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to a certain bill on 22 August 2018 [[1256](#)].

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of assent: 29 August 2018

A Bill for An Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019

A Bill for An Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely


Catherine Holmes
Acting Governor

29 August 2018

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 29 August 2018, from Her Excellency the Acting Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 29 August 2018 [[1257](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Vacancy in Senate of Commonwealth of Australia

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that His Excellency the Governor has been informed by the President of the Senate of a Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett on 27 August 2018. The letter reads—

Your Excellency,

Pursuant to the provisions of section 21 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution, I notify Your Excellency there is a vacancy in the representation of the State of Queensland caused by the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett today.

Yours sincerely

Scott Ryan


President of the Senate

On 29 August 2018, pursuant to standing order 288, I issued a summons to members to a sitting of the House at 4 pm on Thursday, 6 September 2018 in the Legislative Assembly chamber for the purpose of electing a senator, as provided in section 15 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act. I table the correspondence for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 August 2018, from the President of the Senate to His Excellency the Governor advising of a Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett on 27 August 2018 [[1259](#)].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 28 August 2018, from His Excellency the Governor passing on advice from the President of the Senate of a senate vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Andrew Bartlett on 27 August 2018 [[1258](#)].

Correction to Notice Paper

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 22 August 2018 the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts gave notice of a motion in relation to the revocation by regulation of certain protected areas in accordance with the Nature Conservation Act 1992. The size of the areas to be revoked in the notice of motion was incorrectly recorded in the proof *Record of Proceedings* and the error was replicated in the *Notice Paper* published for the sitting of the House on Thursday, 23 August 2018. Once aware of the mistake, on 24 August 2018 the *Record of Proceedings* was corrected and the Table Office subsequently corrected the entry in the *Notice Paper* for the sitting of the House on Tuesday, 4 September 2018.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Warburton, Mr NG

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Neville George Warburton, a former member of the parliament of Queensland, and minister of the state.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Last month I was saddened to hear of the death of former leader of the Queensland parliamentary Labor Party, Nev Warburton. While Nev's passing, at the age of 86, might not have come as a shock, the sense of loss extended well beyond Nev's immediate family and loved ones. With Nev's death, the Labor Party and the trade union movement in Queensland had lost a true stalwart, so today we pay tribute to Nev Warburton in this motion of condolence.

I feel an affinity with Nev Warburton in that we share something in common: we have both been opposition leaders in this House. There have not been all that many through the years—36 in all—but Nev Warburton will long be remembered for the significance of his term as opposition leader during the politics of the 1980s. It is never easy being Leader of the Opposition—especially so when Nev was elected to the position, with the then government in political ascendancy and the Labor Party weakened and dispirited by almost three decades in the political wilderness. The task in front of him was a daunting one—to wrest government from the formidable Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Nev, however, in his trademark, no-nonsense style, rolled up his sleeves and got on with the job.

Neville George Warburton was born in Brisbane on 23 February 1932 and was educated at Hendra State School and industrial high school, as it was known then. After leaving school, Nev began a career as an electrician including working as an electrical fitter and mechanic with the Electricity Supply Department of the Brisbane City Council. Having a strong interest in improving the lot of workers, Nev soon began to take on larger roles within the Electrical Trades Union, first serving as an organiser and later becoming assistant secretary. He became active in the Australian Labor Party, undertaking many roles for the party before being elected in 1976 as an alderman on the Brisbane City Council and serving on council until 1979 representing the Bramble Bay ward.

In 1977, on the retirement of the then member for Sandgate, Harold Dean, Nev was preselected by the ALP to contest the seat. Nev was duly elected and went on to represent the seat of Sandgate in this House for almost 15 years. During his time in parliament, Nev served in numerous parliamentary, political party and executive government roles. Among them were as Deputy Leader of the Opposition from October 1982 to August 1984 and as Leader of the Opposition from August 1984 to March 1988, at which point the leadership of the opposition passed to Wayne Goss.

Following the election of the Goss government in December 1989, and after many years of hard work in opposition, Nev had the privilege of being sworn in as Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations in the first Labor government in this state in 32 years. He had the satisfaction of repealing legislation he had fought against while in opposition, restoring the rights and conditions of workers in the electrical industry that had been stripped away during the bitter SEQEB industrial dispute that had occurred when he was opposition leader. In December 1991 Nev became Minister for Police and Emergency Services, continuing in that ministry until the state election of September 1992.


Nev Warburton was widely regarded as a modest and humble man, whose interests before, during and beyond his parliamentary career included many sporting and community activities. He was a very talented sportsman throughout his life. He excelled as a teenager at boxing and tennis, progressing to football, surf lifesaving and lawn bowls. In his younger years he was a powerful A-grade player for Norths in the Brisbane Rugby League competition during the 1950s and 1960s including a number of premiership-winning sides. At one point he played alongside Rugby League legend and one of the original immortals of the game, Clive Churchill—‘The Little Master’—who was captain-coach of Norths in 1959 at the back end of his illustrious career.

Nev also represented Brisbane in the Bulimba Cup Rugby League competition and was on the verge of selection for Queensland when a broken leg put paid to his career. I am told that Nev used to train by running around the sand track of Deagon racecourse in his football boots. Later in life, his skill and prowess at lawn bowls saw him selected to represent Queensland. As might be imagined, Nev was a highly valued member of the Queensland parliamentary bowls team for many years. He played a key role in Queensland’s many wins in the annual interstate parliamentary bowls carnivals from 1979 through the 1980s alongside his contemporaries of the time such as Ken Vaughan, Tom Burns, Eric Shaw, Les Yewdale, Bill Kaus and Bill Glasson.

Tributes following his passing were generous in their praise of Nev, both for his qualities as a person and for the contribution he made. Nev—or ‘Warby’ as he was known by many—was universally regarded for his integrity, as someone of substance, a straight shooter, a man of his word, dependable, principled, down to earth, thoroughly decent and a thorough gentleman.

Public life and public service need people like Nev Warburton. Queensland is the better for the service he gave. In recognition of his contribution over many years, Nev was a life member of both the Australian Labor Party and the Electrical Trades Union. A number of Nev’s former ministerial colleagues attended his funeral service in Buderim—David Hamill, Paul Braddy, Pat Comben and Glen Milliner. Current ministers, Cameron Dick and Stirling Hinchliffe, represented the government, and Minister Hinchliffe, the current member for Nev’s former electorate of Sandgate, spoke movingly at the funeral. I know he will reiterate some of what he said when he speaks in this motion of condolence shortly.

In conclusion, I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Nev Warburton gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my sincere sympathy and that of this House to Nev's son, Ross, and daughters, Kym and Sandy, who are with us today, and their families and his wider circle of family and friends.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): On behalf of the opposition, I join with the Premier in this motion of condolence extended to the family of Neville George Warburton. I send my most genuine thoughts to his family—his son, Ross, and daughters, Kym and Sandra—as they sit in the gallery here today.


As honourable members have heard, Mr Warburton was the Labor member for Sandgate from 1977 to 1992. In his long career that spanned both local and state politics, Nev developed a reputation as a down-to-earth man and as simply a good bloke. Nev was an electrical fitter and mechanic before his career in politics and assistant secretary to the Electrical Trades Union in Queensland.

Nev was also interested in local government matters. He was an alderman of the Brisbane City Council from 1976 to 1979, representing the Bramble Bay Ward. Nev had a keen interest in sport, particularly Rugby League and bowls, as the Premier has indicated. In his maiden speech in parliament in 1978, Mr Warburton advocated for the local fishing industry and for creating work opportunities within that industry. While in opposition, Nev held numerous positions, including opposition spokesperson for culture, national parks and recreation. He served as Deputy Leader of the Opposition and then succeeded Keith Wright as opposition leader in August 1984—which, as the Premier has indicated, is a very hard job.

He approached the 1986 election with a number of new policies, including the introduction of random breath testing and a plan to ban uranium mining in Queensland. Nev handed over the Labor Party reins to Wayne Goss following the 1986 election. In the Goss cabinet, he served as Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations and then later as Minister for Police and Emergency Services. He retired from parliament in 1992.

As we have heard today, Nev's achievements were not confined to this House. He was a patron of sport, school and community organisations within the Sandgate electorate. He was also an executive of the surf lifesaving movement. As I said, he fought for the local seafood industry during his time in this parliament, and it was fitting that he enjoyed that pastime of fishing during his retirement. His love of sport endured, as he played bowls on the Sunshine Coast, including, as the Premier indicated, as a valued member of the parliamentary bowls team.

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record the opposition's thanks for the many years of service he gave to this House and the Queensland community. On behalf of the opposition, I extend my sincere sympathies and that of this House to Mr Warburton's family and friends.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.43 am): Neville Warburton was many things—an accomplished electrical tradesman, an A-grade Rugby League player, a holder of the elite boxing award the Golden Gloves, a union official, Brisbane city councillor, state opposition leader, cabinet minister, husband, father, grandfather, Labor Party life member and one of the founders of the Labor Unity faction—but, above all else, he was a good bloke.

As an electrical fitter, he joined the Electrical Trades Union and quickly rose through its ranks from job delegate to assistant secretary before at the age of 44 getting elected to the Brisbane City Council. As members have heard, he stood for and won the seat of Sandgate following the retirement of Harold Dean in November 1977. This was the election that we will recall saw Labor out of the cricket team status. Among those who swelled Labor's ranks at that time were the late Terry Mackenroth and Ken Vaughan. Glen Milliner also arrived here at that election. All would serve another 12 years on the opposition side before taking their places on the front bench of the Goss government.

Nev and Ken were great mates, having met as apprentices and serving with the ETU. In 1984 Neville was elected to lead the opposition. Back then, the party was fractured with self-interest and taking body blows from within as federal intervention gripped the party. Nev never took a backward step. He faced up to the party's problems and was instrumental in establishing the old guard, as it became known, due to its connection with the Trades Hall unions and the belief in branch structured processes for the preselection of candidates. Joh at the time remarked that Warburton, or 'Warby' as he was fondly known, had all these 'fractions' to deal with—the old guard, the new guard and I think


they even joked the mud guard. That was perfectly true, as it was a very difficult time to be leader, yet Warby ploughed on and united the party enough to make a fair showing in 1986. It was a real testament to his leadership and decency to keep everybody in the same team.

Wayne Goss is rightly praised for his efforts in getting Labor back after 32 years in the wilderness, but without Warburton laying down the solid foundations and getting the party focused on the try line rather than the sideline the job handed to Goss when Warby gracefully stood aside in March 1988 would have been so much harder. Neville Warburton was given his pick of portfolios by Goss and of course he chose industrial relations. He introduced a new IR act and got rid of the remnants of the draconian Bjelke-Petersen government laws, which, among other things, threatened strikers with the forfeiture of their homes. One fact mostly overlooked by history is Warburton's extension of the Workplace Health and Safety Act to include rural workers. They were specifically excluded from the legislation by the National Party because they thought it would cost property owners money. We will never know how many lives were saved or injuries were prevented in industrial accidents on farms due to these changes.

His greatest moment, however, was when his mate Ken Vaughan put the act through to repay the 1,200 sacked SEQEB workers' superannuation. Warby rallied against this as opposition leader and vowed to make good the workers' entitlements if a Labor government was returned and he was there to vote it in. He would have stayed on as IR minister but for the resignation of Terry Mackenroth from cabinet at the time, and he took on the role of police and emergency services minister in December 1991 and stayed there until he retired at the 1992 election.

As the House has heard, in retirement he pursued his passion for sport. He was an avid member of the Parliamentary Bowls Association, and for a while after he retired he continued with that. However, he relocated to the north coast and pursued the sport with great success and passion. He loved fishing, and he and his lifelong friend, Ken Vaughan, would often be found out in the Bribie passage or elsewhere in that area trying to jag the odd whiting or bream.

Robert Schwarten told me a great story. Both Warby and Vaughany were fastidious people; they were tidy to the point of obsession. They once invited the late Ron McLean, also a Goss cabinet minister, to join them fishing. He was the complete opposite. While every hook and sinker of the sparkiest had a special place in their gleaming tackle boxes, Ronnie who was an ex-wharfie had rusty hooks and bits of line and all other odds and ends strewn around his. That, coupled with his habit of smoking and pulling in dillies instead of cleaning out the debris before landing them on the boat's immaculate floor, not only almost sent them into shock but also meant there were no further invitations to the late Ron McLean to go fishing, although I do understand they did invite him to go bowling. Up there in Labor heaven, I am sure if there is a bowling green that Neville Warburton, Ken Vaughan and Ron McLean will be there together enjoying a beer, but if there is fishing available you can bet there are only the two of them. Rest in peace, Warby.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.48 am): I too would like to offer a few short remarks on a life well lived by a predecessor of mine as the member for Sandgate, Nev Warburton. I was fortunate enough, as the Premier has mentioned, to make a short eulogy on behalf of the government and the Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party at Nev's funeral a few weeks ago. I acknowledge his children, Ross, Kym and Sandy, in the Speaker's Gallery today.

During my time in the Labor Party and at his funeral one word came up time and time again when Nev was mentioned: humble. A former colleague in this place, Dean Wells, the then federal member for Petrie, recounted when he first met Nev at the Carseldine train station. Nev went up to Dean, shook his hand and said, 'Hi, I'm Nev Warburton.' Dean was incredulous that the leader of Queensland's parliamentary Labor Party would not be so presumptive as to assume that everyone knew who he was.

Before being elected as the member for Sandgate at the 1977 election, Nev had made a name for himself in a number of different spaces, but particularly in the Brisbane Rugby League, playing for the mighty Norths Devils during the 1950s and early 1960s, including a stunning run of premierships. The Premier has made mention of his great record as an outstanding Rugby League player. As we have heard, he was also a committed surf lifesaver and later in life a dedicated lawn bowler.

Nev also briefly served on the Brisbane City Council as alderman for the Bramble Bay ward. It was wonderful to learn at the funeral that Nev did his electrical apprenticeship at the BCC and that his grandson Luke is apprenticed in the same trade at Brisbane City Council. Nev was a proud member of the ETU and was a tireless advocate for the Electrical Trades Union members in parliament during the 1985 power strike when 920 hardworking members were sacked by the anti-worker Bjelke-Petersen National Party government.

A year later, Nev went to the 1986 election presenting as the 'honest choice for Queensland'. Despite being unsuccessful at that election, hampered by the malapportionment, Nev was the last Labor leader to be defeated by the National Party at a general election. He went on to be a successful minister, as we have heard, in the Goss Labor government after the 1989 defeat of the Nationals. As Minister for Industrial Relations, he reformed our IR system to tip the balance back to make it fair for the worker, despite opposition from the conservative forces in this state. As police minister, he continued to implement a number of those post-Fitzgerald reforms, restoring the good name of our Queensland Police Service.

Of course, I would like to remark on the work Nev did as the member for Sandgate. We have heard the Leader of the Opposition acknowledge his support for a range of local organisations, particularly the sporting organisations. I wear my Sandgate-Redcliffe District Cricket Club tie in his honour.

Nev and his late wife, Fran, resided at Silvan Road, Deagon until shortly after his retirement from parliament in 1992. To this day, a number of older long-term residents of my electorate still recount what an excellent asset his late wife, Fran, was to him not only as an immense support personally but also as a hardworking representative for Nev in the electorate when he was busy in George Street, fighting Joh or undertaking his ministerial duties.

A number of our local Labor branch members also recount Nev's candour, something reflected in the 1986 slogan. Two late Labor stalwarts in Sandgate, Mick Cowen and Brian Taylor, both told me before their passing that Nev Warburton was not a 'gunna'. If he said he would do something, there would be no doubt it would happen. That brand of honesty also extended to when it was not comfortable. If hard words had to be said, Nev would not shy away from saying them.

I did not know Nev well; we were a generation apart like the member for Cooper and me, but we were also from different traditions in the party, unlike the member for Cooper. However, when I was seeking preselection for Sandgate, I did call Nev from the Deagon branch list. By that stage he was living on the Sunshine Coast and enjoying life and did not ultimately have a say in that preselection. He was as blunt and practical as his reputation. He told me, 'If you're looking for my blessing, you don't need it if you have the numbers.' Thankfully, I did.

To Nev and his family I say thank you for your service to the state. Nev Warburton: a great sportsman, a great union man, a great local representative in council and in this place, a great minister, a great family man but, most of all, a great Queenslanders. As a state we are indebted to his service. Vale, Neville George Warburton.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will commence at 10.40 am.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

Kedron, Gympie Road and Lawley Street Upgrade

Mr Mander, from 28 petitioners, requesting the House to improve access to Lawley Street Kedron by the addition of safety improvements to the intersection of Gympie Road and Lawley Street, Kedron [[1260](#)].

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—

Voluntary Assisted Dying

From 24 petitioners, requesting the House to commence an inquiry by the Health Committee into better end of life choices and voluntary assisted dying no later than October 2018 to allow debate and submissions and tabling of a bill within this term of government [[1261](#)].

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petition, lodged and sponsored by the honourable member indicated—

Burleigh Head National Park Oceanview Track

Mr Hart, from 551 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the reopening of the Burleigh Head National Park Oceanview track [[1262](#), [1263](#)].

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk—

Mental Health and Disability Support, Funding

From 8,223 petitioners, requesting the House to support mental illness and disabilities by prioritising funding for outdoor therapies projects such as those proposed by Bamboo Projects Education [[1264](#), [1265](#)].

Murrumba Downs, Bruce Highway Off-Ramp

From 2,362 petitioners, requesting the House to construct a new northbound on-ramp and a southbound off-ramp to the Bruce Highway at Dohles Rocks Road, Murrumba Downs [[1266](#), [1267](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Cashmere, Eaton's Crossing Road, Upgrade

Ms Boyd, from 211 petitioners, requesting the House to plan and construct safety upgrades on Eaton's Crossing Road, Cashmere [[1268](#)].

Nuclear Power Industry

Hon. Ryan, from 564 petitioners, requesting the House to reject all efforts to progress a nuclear power industry in Queensland [[1269](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the Clerk—

Ormeau and Pimpama, Police Resources

From 803 petitioners, requesting the House to commit to the construction of a new police beat/police station to service the Ormeau and Pimpama growth corridor [[1270](#)].

Minden, Warrego Highway and Lowood-Minden Road, Overpass

From 1,530 petitioners, requesting the House to construct an overpass at the intersection of the Warrego Highway and Lowood-Minden Road, Minden [[1271](#)].

Meat Processing Industry

From 2,216 petitioners, requesting the House to prevent the development of a Queensland veal industry and the opening of the Sunshine Coast "bird to beast" abattoir [[1272](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

24 August 2018—

[1198](#) Oxley Priority Development Area Interim Land Use Plan

[1199](#) Yeronga Priority Development Area Interim Land Use Plan

[1200](#) Oxley Priority Development Area Regulation Map

[1201](#) Yeronga Priority Development Area Regulation Map

[1202](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Queensland Treasury Corporation Asia Roadshow for Fixed Income Investors Meetings in Hong Kong and Tokyo by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Hon. Trad), 25-27 July 2018

29 August 2018—

[1203](#) Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2017 to 12 February 2018

[1204](#) Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 13 February 2018 to 30 June 2018

31 August 2018—

[1205](#) Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority—Queensland Rural Debt Survey 2017: Erratum

3 September 2018—

[1206](#) Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018, explanatory notes: Erratum

[1207](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 14, 56th Parliament—Vegetation Management (Clearing for Relevant Purposes) Amendment Bill 2018

[1208](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 6, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 7 March 2018 and 12 June 2018

[1209](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 6, 56th Parliament—Consideration of the Auditor-General's Report 1: 2017-18—Follow-up of Report 15: 2013-14 Environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Water Act 2000—

[1210](#) Water Plan (Mitchell) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2018, No. 120

[1211](#) Water Plan (Mitchell) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2018, No. 120, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

[1212](#) Water Plan (Gulf) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2018, No. 121

[1213](#) Water Plan (Gulf) (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2018, No. 121, explanatory notes

Local Government (Dissolution of Ipswich City Council) Act 2018—

[1214](#) Proclamation commencing all provisions, No. 122

[1215](#) Proclamation commencing all provisions, No. 122, explanatory notes

Statutory Instruments Act 1992—

[1216](#) Statutory Instruments (Exemptions from Expiry) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 123

[1217](#) Statutory Instruments (Exemptions from Expiry) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 123, explanatory notes

Public Service Act 2008—

[1218](#) Public Service Regulation 2018, No. 124

[1219](#) Public Service Regulation 2018, No. 124, explanatory notes

Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997—

[1220](#) Queensland Competition Authority Regulation 2018, No. 125

[1221](#) Queensland Competition Authority Regulation 2018, No. 125, explanatory notes

Financial Intermediaries Act 1996—

[1222](#) Financial Intermediaries Regulation 2018, No. 126

[1223](#) Financial Intermediaries Regulation 2018, No. 126, explanatory notes

Childrens Court Act 1992, Industrial Relations Act 2016, Magistrates Courts Act 1921, Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, Personal Injuries Proceedings Act 2002, Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991, Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003—

[1224](#) Uniform Civil Procedure Rules and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No. 1) 2018, No. 127

[1225](#) Uniform Civil Procedure Rules and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No. 1) 2018, No. 127, explanatory notes

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991—

[1226](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Subpoenas) Amendment Rule 2018, No. 128

[1227](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Subpoenas) Amendment Rule 2018, No. 128, explanatory notes

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

[1228](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 129

[1229](#) Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 129, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

[1230](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Rural Economic Development Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 130

[1231](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Rural Economic Development Grants Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 130, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

[1232](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Vessel Tracking Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 131

[1233](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Vessel Tracking Rebate Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 131, explanatory notes

Recording of Evidence Act 1962—

[1234](#) Recording of Evidence Regulation 2018, No. 132

[1235](#) Recording of Evidence Regulation 2018, No. 132, explanatory notes

Health Act 1937, Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016—

[1236](#) Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 133

[1237](#) Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 133, explanatory notes

Land Access Ombudsman Act 2017—

[1238](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 134

[1239](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 134, explanatory notes

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[1240](#) Work Health and Safety Act 2011: Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Regulation 2018, No. 135

[1241](#) Work Health and Safety Act 2011: Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Regulation 2018, No. 135, explanatory notes

Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Act 2017—

[1242](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 136

[1243](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 136, explanatory notes

Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002—

[1244](#) Residential Services (Accreditation) Regulation 2018, No. 137

[1245](#) Residential Services (Accreditation) Regulation 2018, No. 137, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975, Electrical Safety Act 2002, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1246](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018, No. 138

[1247](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2018, No. 138, explanatory notes


Queensland Heritage Act 1992—

[1248](#) Queensland Heritage (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 139

[1249](#) Queensland Heritage (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 139, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


Qantas, 787 Dreamliners

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.57 am): I like to remind people that the ‘Q’ in Qantas stands for Queensland, and now four of the airline’s newest aircraft are to be based in Brisbane. The 787 Dreamliners can fly further and quieter than ever before, expanding our tourism industry and bringing us closer to our trading partners. The first of these Dreamliners left Brisbane on Saturday bound for Los Angeles and New York. It was aptly named *Waltzing Matilda*, another gift Queensland has given the world. It was written in Winton, not far from the Longreach airfield where Qantas planes first flew. The Dreamliners will be crewed by a workforce of 120 with another 350 jobs in supporting roles, all of them based in Brisbane. That is 470 jobs adding to the 164,500 my government has created since coming to office.

We are delivering jobs for Queenslanders. We are providing free TAFE courses to year 12 graduates in more than 160 in-demand trades, including hospitality, construction and aviation. We are making Queensland the new home of automotive manufacturing. Volvo Trucks has based its manufacturing here at Wacol. We are Boeing’s biggest drone research centre outside the United States.

Success breeds more success. While on board the Dreamliner, passengers will drink Symphony Hill Wines—that is right, Queensland wines from our own Granite Belt. They were selected after blind tastings by the airline’s hard-to-impress judges. Not even the sky is the limit for Queensland. As Qantas prepares to celebrate its 100th birthday we will never let anyone forget that no matter how far or wide they roam, they still call Queensland home.

Energy Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.59 am): My government is committed to providing Queensland with reliable, affordable, sustainable energy. That is why in 2017 we released our Affordable Energy Plan, which provides the lowest wholesale electricity prices in the National Electricity Market. Together with the growing investment in renewables—I will say that again, renewables—that means Queensland has the cheapest generation in the country, and it is getting cheaper.


Through our Affordable Energy Pledge we are requiring that all Queensland retailers pass on every cent in savings generated by the Affordable Energy Plan. We reinvest all of the dividends of our publicly owned generators in a range of savings measures, including rebates on energy-efficient

appliances, discounts for regional customers paying by direct debit and a \$50 rebate off every Queensland household's electricity. We can do this because we own the assets. Of the three things that make up an electricity bill we have increased generation, we have put retailers on notice and we are lowering network costs.

Today I have good news for Queensland. In 2015 we promised there was a better way for Queensland than selling our electricity networks and that by merging our network businesses we could deliver savings. During the current regulatory period we directed the networks to lower costs, which is helping to deliver lower bill outcomes for Queensland. We are now seeing further benefits from these savings. From July 2020 Ergon and Energex are proposing a 10 per cent real reduction in distribution network charges for the average residential customer across Queensland. This one-off reduction in distribution network charges is in addition to the on average seven per cent annual reduction that my government has delivered every year since 2015. This equates to an average one-off bill reduction in 2020 of \$54 for the average residential customer and \$50 for the average small business customer utilising current QCA methodology.

We may have a new Prime Minister and a new federal cabinet, but as yet we have no sign of a national energy policy framework. While New South Wales and Victoria literally pay the price for selling off power stations like Hazelwood and Liddell, Queensland continues to operate Australia's youngest and most efficient fleet of coal-fired generators. We have the only gas reserves in the country that are increasing domestic supply and safeguarding jobs in traditional industries and a growing industry of large scale renewable projects that will be supported into the future by CleanCo, with more than \$20 billion in new projects in the pipeline. Queenslanders cannot afford to wait for the federal government, so my government will get on with the job of delivering cheaper, more reliable power for Queenslanders.


Palliative and End-of-Life Care

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.02 am): My government is a government that leads and one that confronts tough issues. For too long the difficult subjects of aged care and end-of-life care have been put in the too-hard basket. It is time that something was done. How many times have we heard the complaint that accessing aged care is too complicated, too hard and too costly. Our families deserve better than having to navigate the financial mysteries of aged care and doubts about its quality. While there are some outstanding examples, there are shameful ones too. This is a national problem that requires national solutions, and that is why I am having it added to the agenda at next month's COAG meeting. Just as I did with the issue of cyberbullying, I think that aged care is an issue that needs to be front and centre for decision-makers. We need to throw open the doors and give people the chance to tell their stories.

It does not end there: we also have to address what is known as end-of-life care. Palliative care and dying with dignity are topics that we have not addressed. Those who are involved in palliative care are some of the bravest, most empathetic, caring and wonderful professionals in our community. I have seen the anguish and misery of this time of life inflicted on members of my own family and wondered why they have to go through it all. They are stories every family can tell. Australians are, above all, practical people. Many do not understand why their loved ones are forced to suffer.

The Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee has a membership that crosses the political divide. They will examine this issue in great depth and detail following the debate on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill.


Drought Appeal, Reception

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.04 am): It is one month and one day since I launched the Queensland Drought Appeal. To date it has raised \$2.24 million and counting, and a million of that was raised during Channel 7's Saturday night special as families opened their hearts and purses. The excellent #BetonBirdsville campaign added at least \$50,000, with more still being counted. We know that no amount will ever put back what six years of drought has taken away, but we also know that Queensland has demonstrated once again that when the worst happens we all want to help out.

We are not finished yet! On Thursday, 20 September we will open the doors of this House for the Queensland parliament's Drought Appeal Reception. With your kind support, Mr Speaker, and that of the Leader of the Opposition, politics will be put aside for one night so we can all unite in support of this very worthy cause. Anyone who remembers the years of the legendary Parliament House balls has some idea what lies ahead. I think Spencer Jolly might be involved.

Nolan Meats, SunPork Fresh Foods, Gold Coast Tiger Prawns, the Australian Prawn Farmers Association, Bingil Bay Barramundi, Fourex, Iron Jack and Oatley Wines have lent their support along with Suncorp. A number of very generous companies have donated auction prizes, including a Great Barrier Reef cruise. Numbers are strictly limited, so I urge all members to dig deep, invite some friends and join me, the Leader of the Opposition and you, Mr Speaker, to raise funds for this very worthy cause. I am told that tickets will be available later today.

Distribution of GST; Sunshine Coast Lightning

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.06 am): Queenslanders expect their federal government to work hard for them and get on with the job of delivering for our state. It is obvious that we have not been getting our fair share from the Commonwealth government, whether it is in infrastructure funding, remote Indigenous housing, skills, education or health. The swearing in of the Morrison government is an opportunity to place on record again the critical issues facing Queensland on which we need clarity from the current Prime Minister.

It has been almost two months since the federal LNP government released its approach to changes to the GST distribution, and we are no closer to a clear and agreeable way forward on this important issue. In that time the federal government has been focused on themselves rather than solving the big issues which face our country. The federal government is yet to address the states' concerns regarding the proposal to change GST distribution, and Queensland is still faced with significant funding uncertainty going forward.

Irrespective of the chaos within the federal LNP government, Queenslanders continue to require essential services to get on with their lives. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering for all Queenslanders. In ensuring that the federal government does not forget its responsibilities, I have already spoken with, and written to, the new Commonwealth Treasurer to reiterate that Queensland needs its fair share of GST now and into the future. The Palaszczuk government continues to support the current model of GST distribution. At its very heart this model has the principle of sufficient and adjusted funding to all states and territories so that all Australians can have the same level of service, no matter whether they live in Cairns or Cronulla.

Queensland is a vast state and has distinct service delivery challenges. We are a decentralised state, with the majority of our population living outside the capital city. We have many remote and discrete Indigenous communities. Any material reduction in GST revenue would cripple our ability to deliver essential services for all Queenslanders. Queensland will never accept a position where we are worse off, and any expedient political rhetoric about a 'no state worse off' guarantee will be fully interrogated by independent Treasury experts. We also need to see the federal government commit to certainty of funding for critical national partnership agreements like remote Indigenous housing, skills, health and education. We will not allow the federal government to give with one hand on the GST and take with the other by stripping funding out of our national partnership agreements.

We also want to see our fair share of infrastructure funding. The last federal budget promised money for projects in Queensland like the Sunshine Coast rail line duplication and the M1, but the bulk of these funds do not kick in for four years. We want to see that money brought forward so we can get on with the job of building these critical projects. Leaked LNP election policies show that the federal government is planning on splurging another \$3.5 billion on a rail line in western Sydney, while Queensland still cannot get one single cent of funding for Cross River Rail, which will mean better rail services—

Opposition members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms TRAD: I will be working towards getting a fair outcome on GST, national partnerships and infrastructure funding for Queensland when I speak to the other treasurers at the special meeting of the Council on Federal Financial Relations planned for October. Let me be clear: the Palaszczuk government will never, ever sign up to a dud deal for Queensland from any one of the prime ministerial aspirants in Canberra. We will always continue to fight for a fair share for Queensland—always.

While I am on my feet, I also want to take a moment to give a shout-out to the Sunshine Coast Lightning, who have now won back-to-back Super Netball championships. I have been incredibly proud to be the inaugural patron of the Lightning and was there in Perth to see them take out the trophy for the second time. To CEO Danielle Smith, coaches Noeline and Kylee and all the team: congratulations on an incredible win. It is so important for young women to have fierce, strong role models in sport like

the Lightning to lead the way. There is sad news this morning, though, with captain Geva Mentor and goal shooter Caitlin Bassett off to other teams. I wish them both luck in what comes next. I know that the Sunshine Coast community has completely embraced this incredible team. I am sure they will continue to go from strength to strength, with the Palaszczuk government's \$7 million investment in an upgrade to their home stadium.

Manufacturing

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.11 am): Manufacturing in Queensland is coming back. Last week I visited Incitec Pivot's facility at Gibson Island, where 400 workers are employed turning Queensland natural gas into ammonia, fertiliser and other products. Their feedstock is gas, and recent price increases were putting the company under pressure. That is why our government worked with industry to bring on more supply, to support Incitec Pivot and other major industrial users in Queensland.


The future of manufacturing in Queensland keeps getting brighter. I am pleased to report that manufacturing is now supporting over 170,000 jobs in Queensland—an increase of 6,000 jobs on the same period last year. Eighty-six per cent of jobs in manufacturing are full-time jobs.

Manufacturing plays an important role in the Queensland economy, contributing almost \$20 billion in added value and providing around a third of Queensland's exports. Our government recognises the great potential in Queensland's transition to advanced manufacturing. That is why our \$40 million Made in Queensland grants program offers matched funding of between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million to companies that can demonstrate economic improvement, including job creation from the equipment to be purchased.

As Queensland's manufacturing minister I was proud to recently convene my manufacturing ministerial council. The council draws together representatives from industry and their representative bodies, including employer organisations and trade unions, to provide advice to government on how best to manage the challenges and opportunities in the sector. That includes the way we promote the development of new industries as well as established manufacturing industries, which will include the appointment of a rail manufacturing leaders group. In 2017-18 the Queensland rail sector employed around 21,000 people and added around \$4 billion in value to the state's economy. Our government wants the rail sector to grow. It is growth that will be fuelled both by rising demand and by government policy including Cross River Rail and our decision to modify rolling stock in the great regional city of Maryborough.

Our government believes that manufacturing has a bright future in this state. Our message to the industry is that, while chaos reigns in Canberra, our government has a laser-like focus on jobs and on backing the Queensland businesses that employ.

International Education

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (10.14 am): It is not just manufacturing that is back; international education is back too. New data released this week shows that growth in international education is quickly transforming Queensland's economy. New data from Deloitte Access Economics shows that international education generated \$4.37 billion in export earnings for Queensland and supported more than 21,000 jobs. That is nearly 14 per cent growth on 2016. Student numbers grew by about 12 per cent in 2017, with more than 123,000 international students now enrolled in Queensland.

Mr Speaker, you would be very pleased to know that many towns in regional Queensland are among the best performing destinations in Queensland. Toowoomba saw a 63 per cent increase in export revenue, to \$114 million, and a six per cent increase in employment, to 551 jobs. Ipswich saw a 47 per cent increase in export revenue and a 43 per cent growth in employment, to 123 jobs.

Ms Howard: Hear, hear!


Ms JONES: I take the interjection of the very proud member for Ipswich. Rockhampton, the centre of the universe, saw a 24 per cent increase in export revenue, to almost \$10 million, and 17 per cent growth in employment, to nearly 100 jobs. Townsville saw a 30 per cent growth in export revenue, to \$84 million, and a 31 per cent growth in employment and 353 jobs.

Mr Stewart: Kicking goals.

Ms JONES: I take the interjection of the member for Townsville, who certainly, with his colleagues, is kicking goals in that great city. Actually, everyone is in Townsville today, aren't they?

By capitalising on this rapidly expanding sector we are creating new jobs in our state. Only a Labor government will invest in the skills and infrastructure we need to grow Queensland's international education industry. This data shows that our \$25 million strategy to grow Queensland's international education sector is working and creating jobs in regional Queensland.

AIDS

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.16 am): Today is World Sexual Health Day. Today I can make the best announcement I could possibly think of for this day, that AIDS has been removed—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I could not hear your statement. Could you please repeat that statement.

Dr MILES: I will, Mr Speaker. Today I can make the best announcement I could possibly think of for World Sexual Health Day, that AIDS has been removed from the notifiable conditions schedule. This is a big step, because it shines a spotlight on significant achievements in the HIV and AIDS battle over the last decade that has led to this change.


The objective of the notifiable conditions schedule is to monitor and respond to diseases that are considered a public health risk because those diseases can spread. HIV remains a public health risk but AIDS does not, which is why we are making changes to remove AIDS from the notifiable conditions schedule. This significant achievement is largely due to highly active antiretroviral treatments for HIV. These treatments were groundbreaking when they were introduced in 1996. They work by lowering the viral load of HIV in the blood to virtually undetectable levels. Research shows that people living with HIV who are on this treatment and maintain an undetectable viral load do not develop AIDS and do not pass HIV on to their partners.

Last year there were just 12 new cases of AIDS reported in Queensland. Compare that to the late 1980s and early 1990s, when there were hundreds of AIDS cases notified each and every year. My friend Phil Carswell, who is here today, says that he remembers the first case, in 1983. As more and more people were diagnosed with HIV and AIDS through the 1980s it must have felt just so overwhelming, and the shocking toll on the LGBTIQ community must have felt devastating. As Phil said to me this morning, spare a thought today for the 11,000 Queenslanders who are not in the world today because of AIDS. Imagine how different the world could have been. It must have been hard to imagine a day like today. To everyone in the gallery from the Queensland AIDS Council and Queensland Positive People and everyone else who has been part of this fight: thank you.

While AIDS is no longer a public health issue I know HIV remains a significant public health risk, with 185 new cases reported in 2017. HIV, like many other STDs, often has no symptoms which is why it is very important for all sexually active people to get regularly tested. The sooner HIV is detected, the sooner treatment can start and the better your chances are of living a long and healthy life.

After years of advocacy, pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV is now available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and, coupled with condoms, continues to provide one of the most effective ways to prevent HIV. The Palaszczuk government made this transition possible by providing prep to up to 3,000 of the most at-risk Queenslanders to show that prep is a feasible, safe and effective method for reducing the risk of HIV. While we acknowledge that there is still work to do, I hope everyone in the gallery today takes this moment to congratulate themselves on this momentous achievement.

Energy Industry

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.20 am): Queensland will have three locally owned energy generation companies trading in the National Electricity Market by mid-2019. The addition of CleanCo, announced last week, will ensure that the Palaszczuk government maintains downward pressure on electricity prices. It is estimated that it will reduce wholesale electricity prices on average by about \$7 a megawatt hour. Most importantly, this is expected to translate to an estimated \$70 per annum saving for the average Queensland household. The Treasurer has announced initial funding of \$250 million to progress the development of CleanCo, which will have a strategic portfolio of low and no emission power generation assets. Its goal is to build, construct, own and maintain renewable energy generation.

CleanCo continues a consistent theme pursued by the Palaszczuk government—that is, that we insist on Queenslanders owning their assets so we can place downward pressure on electricity prices and put money back into the pockets of all Queensland families. CleanCo will encourage competition in the energy sector. It will play a key role in achieving our target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and we are well on track to achieve that. Alongside Stanwell and CS Energy, CleanCo will be looking to our renewable future.

While the LNP federally and at state level continues to be in a state of confusion as to the reality of renewables, the Palaszczuk government acts. We have fostered a climate that has attracted wind, solar, battery and hydro industries and power. We have more than \$4.3 billion worth of renewable projects underway or financially committed. They will deliver more than 2,000 megawatts of power and more than 3,000 construction jobs. We recognise and are addressing climate change, we are protecting our environment and we are doing all of this while ensuring growth, employment and easing the cost of living for all Queensland families.

I was very disappointed to hear the new federal energy minister on radio this morning talking about renewable energy targets when, in reference to the growth that is happening in renewable energy, he said, 'The damage has been done.' He should look no further than towards our affordable energy plan and renewable energy because that is working for all Queensland families—metropolitan and regional families alike—bringing down the costs of power all over this state. CleanCo is another piece of what might be puzzling to those on the other side of this House, but it makes perfect sense to a Palaszczuk Labor government.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week; NAPLAN



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.23 am): This week is National Literacy and Numeracy Week and it is also QCS testing week for our year 12 students. I want to wish the 28,000 senior students who are sitting the four tests over the next two days all the very best, to have confidence in their abilities and to try their hardest.


The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a quality education in all Queensland schools. Our preliminary results in the 2018 NAPLAN tests released last week have reaffirmed our ongoing investment in educational reforms, such as the introduction of prep over the past decade, are paying dividends. Our long-term trend of lifting literacy and numeracy outcomes has continued for Queensland state schools this year with improvement across year levels and many test strands, with reading and spelling being stand-out areas. Our year 9 students also achieved some of their highest results ever in spelling, grammar and punctuation, reading and numeracy.

This year's results confirm Queensland as one of the most improved states since testing began in 2008. Importantly, we are gaining growth and improvement in schools which have traditionally had challenges. Since the test started a decade ago, Queensland students have improved in 16 of 20 NAPLAN testing areas in both mean scale score and national minimum standard. These are some great results for Queensland. I thank our students for their hard work and their teachers, school staff, parents and carers for supporting and encouraging them to do their best.

Our government recognises the need for a nationally consistent test. However, with writing results continuing to decline around the country and participation rates falling in Queensland, we are pressing ahead with our state based NAPLAN evaluation. Already we have consulted with parents to get their views on the tests, with almost 8,000 parents and carers responding to our recent online survey and focus groups. I am pleased to announce the Australian Catholic University has been appointed to lead the second stage of the evaluation and this week consultation has been extended to teachers, principals, education stakeholders and students to provide their views and issues.

The results of our state based evaluation are scheduled to be presented to government at the end of October. I look forward to seeing the results and I know that other states and territories will be keen to see the outcome of Queensland's lead in this evaluation. In the meantime, I remain committed to advocating for a broader national review, particularly in the area of writing, and to address the many serious issues identified this year with NAPLAN Online. Our new Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has promised to do things differently, so I suggest he starts by asking his new education minister to commission a national NAPLAN review. After 10 years of NAPLAN, it is time.

Domestic and Family Violence, GPS Tracking Devices

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.26 am): This week following a court's decision to grant bail a court ordered that an alleged domestic violence perpetrator not be released from police custody until he had a GPS tracking device secured to his ankle. This was a good decision. GPS tracking devices offer an extra layer of security in a world where, sadly, domestic violence continues to occur despite the best efforts of our government and our community. Today I can advise the House that our government will continue to rollout GPS trackers for use by the courts. The Queensland Police Service is continually looking to world's best practice in GPS tracking, with a view to secure more of the best for Queensland. It is additional monitoring, an added layer of security, another measure to keep Queenslanders safe.

The safety of vulnerable Queenslanders will always be our priority. For this very reason, laws were changed last year to give the courts the option to put GPS trackers on perpetrators of domestic violence who are granted bail by the courts. This means they are monitored around the clock, every second of every day. We have hundreds of GPS tracking devices at our disposal and, as the Police Commissioner has publicly stated, those trackers will be available whenever and wherever the courts order.

Since the end of March this year the courts have ordered GPS tracking devices be placed on 24 offenders and more than 800 parolees have also been fitted with these devices since last year alone—all monitored every second of every day. Offenders know the consequences of tampering with these devices: they are taken back into custody and dealt with. It was a Labor government that delivered GPS tracking devices for Queenslanders. It was not the LNP, and that is probably because they are not tracking too well these days.


Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I call the—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under standing orders. I called the House to order and you continued to interject.

Youth Detention Centres, Incidents

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.28 am): I rise to speak about recent reports of incidents inside our youth detention centres. From the outset I want to say how proud I am of our staff who work in those centres and of their commitment to providing an environment in which the young people in those centres are not only held accountable for their actions but also given an opportunity to change their life trajectory.

I am also proud that, under the Palaszczuk Labor government, we now have a system in place that allows us to accurately measure what is happening in our centres—not a system that, under the LNP, glossed over incidents so that no-one would ever have a real idea of what was going on and be able to effect change.

Detention centres have always been difficult environments and the issues that our detention centre staff deal with have grown in complexity. Many young people in detention have serious alcohol and substance abuse issues with ice or other methamphetamines in particular now prevalent, with 29 per cent of detainees recording these issues. Rising numbers of young people with complex needs means managing them safely has become more difficult and better reporting procedures for staff have meant that the number of incidents reported in our detention centres has risen. Of course, the numbers of incidents will fluctuate as the numbers of detainees fluctuate.

Let me make it absolutely clear that violence in our youth detention centres is not acceptable and is not tolerated. That is why any incidents in our detention centres—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you have been repeatedly interjecting all morning. You are warned under standing orders.

Ms FARMER: That is why any incidents in our detention centres are taken incredibly seriously. It is why we have improved our reporting procedures so that every incident, no matter how minor, is reported and offenders held accountable. Young offenders do not get to use detention centre staff as punching bags and get away with it.

We are implementing all 84 recommendations of the independent review of youth detention. In this year's state budget, we committed \$10 million for 84 additional front-line and front-line support positions in our detention centres. This is in addition to the new security systems, infrastructure upgrades and increase in capacity that we have funded in the centres. We know that, in some circumstances, detention is appropriate for community safety. We are committed to helping these young people get their lives back on track, but they need to play by the rules or they can expect punishment.

It is disappointing to hear the member for Nanango fail to understand the complex reality of our detention centres. Youth justice needs a consistent approach. We cannot keep doing the same thing we have been doing year after year and expect the results to be different. That is why I recently released the report prepared for me by former police commissioner Bob Atkinson into the way forward for youth justice, and we are currently consulting on that report.

He calls for continued investment in early intervention to prevent youth offending; intervention and support for parents as early as the prenatal stage; greater collaboration between my department, the Queensland Police Service and the Childrens Court; more alternative and flexible schooling options for young people at risk of disengaging from education; keeping minor offences out of the court system; reducing the number of young people in youth detention; and options to divert young people away from the youth justice system. We are committed to changing the story for the community and to changing the story for these young people.

Road Safety Week; Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.32 am): Last week was the Palaszczuk government's fourth Queensland Road Safety Week. The road toll this year to date is of great concern to me and the government. As of this morning, 17 more people have lost their lives on Queensland roads compared to this time last year. These latest statistics show there is still much more to do to increase road safety for Queensland motorists. That is why last week's Road Safety Week was so important. We once again partnered with the Queensland Police Service, which does such a great job, to remind Queenslanders of their responsibilities while on the road.

The Palaszczuk government is doing all it can to reduce the road toll via road infrastructure upgrades, advertising campaigns and road safety grants, but we need motorists to play their part. Last year, distraction, drink and drug driving and riding, fatigue, speeding and not wearing a seatbelt were a factor in 56 per cent of road deaths. More than any other, these road deaths are preventable and unnecessary. In total, 247 people were tragically killed and 6,450 people were hospitalised—that is an extraordinary number—in 2017, many with life-changing injuries. This has a devastating effect on families, friends and communities.

During this Road Safety Week we have held more than 230 events throughout Queensland—in local schools, shopping centres, workplaces and community hubs—involving everyone from schoolkids to our senior citizens. A new CBD pedestrian safety campaign was launched on 27 August, 'Be aware. Cross with care', which runs until 16 September.


With 23 pedestrians dying in Queensland to date this year, it is a timely reminder for everyone to remain vigilant and aware near our roads. Last week, I launched the latest winning Co-Lab campaign, 'Let's drive the road toll down to zero'. This campaign, designed by young people and targeted at young people, uses humour to talk about our long-term vision of zero road trauma. The campaign videos are being aired on YouTube, Catch Up TV and social media now. I encourage all members to check them out on our Join the Drive to Save Lives Facebook page. Previous Co-Lab ad campaigns over the past two years have achieved more than eight million views online.

In addition, on 30 August I was pleased to attend a regional forum in Townville with the member for Thuringowa and a range of stakeholders to look at the staggering statistic that one in four people killed in vehicles on Queensland roads are not wearing seatbelts. According to the research, regional Queenslanders are less likely to buckle up.

Although Queensland Road Safety Week is over for another year, I continue to encourage all Queenslanders to speak up for road safety every day, every time they get behind the wheel. I would like to acknowledge our partners—Queensland Cricket, RACQ, MAIC and CARRS-Q—along with many other advocates throughout Queensland for their support.

I can provide some information to the chamber in relation to media reports this morning. I can report to the chamber that I was, in fact, on leave and out of the country until my first day back at work on Monday, 23 January. Upon my return, I was briefed on matters that occurred while I was on leave. As soon as the matter of personal email use was raised at cabinet in the afternoon of 23 January, I committed to complying with the Premier's directive.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.36 am): Queensland has reached an important milestone in the rollout of the NDIS, with more than 20,000 Queenslanders with disability now signed up to the scheme. I am pleased with the progress being made across the state, with the number of participants steadily increasing. We have entered into the third year of the NDIS rollout across Queensland and this is the year when we will see a huge number of Queenslanders come in and benefit from the scheme.

More than 3,000 people across the South-East, Fraser Coast and Far North regions joined the NDIS within the first month of the rollout in these areas. From 1 July to 1 August 2018 sign-ups exceeded 1,500 in the Brisbane area alone. I am pleased that these numbers are growing. My department is working hard to give every assistance possible to the NDIA to help get people into the scheme and their work on the register of need to make sure that, for each area that has transitioned, the number on that list comes down to zero.

In addition, from June 2018 the agency has seconded up to 40 staff to the NDIA for up to six months to assist with this third year of transition. When discussing this with Minister Tehan, who was previously responsible for the NDIA, he indicated how much the NDIA staff were previously able to learn from the Queensland staff. This transfer of knowledge will stand us in good stead as transition continues and is the kind of collaboration between the state and the Commonwealth that I am sure Queenslanders expect and deserve.

Participants of the NDIS coming into the scheme have the ability to choose their supports and determine whether they would prefer to self-manage their funding or have the funding managed on their behalf. Queensland is a significant investor in the NDIS. In 2019-20, when transition is completed, Queensland will provide just over \$2 billion to the NDIS. We are taking every step possible to make sure that our investment is spent wisely and for the benefit of the people with disability and their carers.

The Palaszczuk government is working hard to ensure that Queenslanders with disability are supported to join the NDIS and have access to support during the transition to the NDIS. I look forward to updating the House further as the transition continues this year.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


School Group Tour

Mr SPEAKER: I wish to advise the House that in the gallery today are students and teachers from Childers State School in the electorate of Burnett.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.39 am.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.39 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. The opposition has uncovered more emails that show Minister Bailey repeatedly and deliberately disobeyed the Premier's clear order not to use private emails for government business. This is a real test of the Premier's leadership.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, resume your seat. Members to my right, the question will be heard in silence. I will start issuing warnings under standing orders.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This is a real test of the Premier's leadership. How does the Premier respond to her cabinet minister repeatedly and continually disobeying the Premier's clear order?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the minister stated to the House, when he was at cabinet when all of the cabinet ministers were there I issued that directive and my understanding is that he has complied with that directive since then.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is again to the Premier. Given the Premier has not disciplined Minister Bailey for repeatedly and deliberately disobeying the Premier's order not to use a private email account, is this not further evidence that the Premier does not have the power to pull Minister Bailey into line because the Premier does not run the government; Labor's left faction runs this government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are still trying to work out who is running the country. We think Scott Morrison is. We are not quite sure. I thank the member for the question. We are not quite sure who is running the opposition. Gary Spence was seen in the corridors of parliament at the last sitting telling those opposite how they should vote—for Peter Dutton, I think it was. That did not go too well at all.

As I said in my earlier answer, the directive has been issued and ministers are complying with that directive. May I further add that all of these matters have been thoroughly investigated by the CCC.

Port of Townsville

Mr STEWART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on progress towards increasing the capacity of the port of Townsville to further stimulate trade and export growth in the great North Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that very important question. I said in the House during the last sitting how important the expansion of the Townsville port is for the people of North Queensland. I have had numerous representations in Townsville from all of our three members there. They are very hardworking local members: the member for Mundingburra, the member for Thuringowa and the member for Townsville.

In terms of updating the House, in 2016-17, just to give an idea of how important the Townsville port is for the Queensland economy, the Townsville port maintained its record as Australia's No. 1 port for sugar exports. It also had increased by 22 per cent, to 367,000 tonnes, exports of molasses. Trade volumes through the port are expected to triple over the next 30 years. That is why we have a \$1.64 billion Townsville port expansion plan. We know how important it is and that is why we have committed \$75 million. It will create 120 local jobs during construction, support 8,000 jobs in industries that rely on the port and return more than \$580 million to the Townsville economy.

We have been waiting and waiting for the federal government to match our contribution when it comes to the Townsville port. Ministers Trad and Bailey had been writing to the former minister for transport and main roads seeking funding for different projects. I had also written to the former prime minister, Malcolm Turnbull, about this. Lo and behold a letter has arrived on my desk this morning from the new Prime Minister, the honourable Scott Morrison, or ScoMo as he is referred to by others.

Ms Trad: By himself as well.

Ms PALASZCZUK: By himself as well. In that letter he says that he proposes to commit \$75 million to the port of Townsville channel capacity, finally matching our contribution. It is a bit like the Townsville stadium. We had to drag them kicking and screaming to fund the Townsville stadium, but I know they cannot wait until they can cut the ribbon.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the minister's interjection. We had to drag them kicking and screaming in relation to Rookwood Weir as well. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer will be putting forward her list of asks to the federal government and our ministers will be making sure that Queensland gets its fair share.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Premier said on 16 January, 'I am going to make it clear to all ministers that it is my clear expectation that all stakeholders dealing with ministers do so through their official government email,' but in the following weeks Minister Bailey repeatedly and deliberately used his private email address. Will the Premier confirm whether this political, expedient, secret communication with GetUp! was the reason the Premier has turned a blind eye to Minister Bailey's wilful disobedience?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, the minister has addressed this issue.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I made it very clear, I think it was on 23 January, at the cabinet meeting in the afternoon to all ministers there. I will listen to the opposition come in and here and lecture on emails when they talk to their federal government counterparts about their mass communication on WhatsApp. What we have seen very clearly through the leadership challenge is that the federal government uses WhatsApp to communicate. In fact, ministers contact my ministers on WhatsApp as well. That is what they have been doing. As I have said very clearly, it was conveyed at the cabinet meeting and all ministers were clear and then the cabinet handbook was updated.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was laughing? Member for Pine Rivers, you are warned under standing orders. I called the House to order. I was waiting for silence before hearing the next questioner.

Amrun Bauxite Mine

Ms LUI: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier inform the House of her recent visit to my electorate and of any update on progress of the Amrun bauxite mine?

Ms PALASZCZUK: On this side of the House we are focused on jobs and jobs for Queenslanders. That means even people living in remote parts of Queensland have access to good-quality, secure jobs. Just last week I was honoured to visit Rio Tinto's Amrun bauxite mine with the member for Cook to not only meet with the workers but also talk to the elders about the collaboration that we have seen very clearly on their traditional lands.

From the outset I say that this is a huge investment in the Queensland economy. The Amrun mine is a \$2.6 billion investment. It is 90 per cent complete. I advise the House that I have been told that the mine is scheduled to open early next year, which is great news. Many people probably do not realise that the bauxite is processed at facilities in Gladstone and used in all of our mobile phones. We carry a little bit of Weipa with us at all times.

Australia is the world's biggest bauxite producer, mining 30 per cent of the world's supplies. I had the opportunity to meet with the CEO, Jean Jacques. On many occasions he has told me how they utilise local content in terms of manufacturing supplies from Queensland and around Australia, supporting our Buy Queensland policy. More than 1,200 people work at the mine, including 900 Queenslanders and, of those workers, 349 are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. We were briefed on the sea rangers program. I was surprised to learn that that coastline has one of the largest turtle nesting sites in Queensland. I had not been aware of that. It is turtle nesting season at the moment.

I pay tribute to Wik Way elder Uncle Tony who asked for two things when we were on his land. He asked for respect and the ability to give young people the opportunity to work there. When we met and spoke with the workers, we learnt that not only are local people working there, but their sons and daughters are now having that opportunity. This is a generational opportunity for people to gain long-term secure jobs in some of the most remote areas of our state.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Appointments

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Speaking of jobs, more documents from Minister Bailey's private email account show that he received a second application for a plum taxpayer funded board position to his private account, this time from a former staffer to Labor's Jim Soorley. In light of this revelation and the Mark Algie affair, will the Premier now order an investigation into all appointments made by Minister Bailey?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am aware of the issue that the member has raised. My understanding is that she had been on the register since 2015.

Infrastructure

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the impact to Queensland of the federal government's secret infrastructure re-election plan?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, please resume your seat. Leader of the Opposition, you will refer to members in this House by their correct title.

Ms TRAD: From deemed leaked news reports not only yesterday but also over the past week, it is pretty clear that the federal Liberal Party is eating itself alive. Whether it is from the au pair affairs that we have seen in the papers as the very activist immigration minister, Peter Dutton, tries to ensure that au pairs get a fair deal in terms of Australian visas or whether it is from this secret infrastructure list, it is quite clear that the LNP and the Liberal Party are divided, they are chaotic and they are disunited. They do not have their eyes on Queensland and certainly they are not governing in the interests of Australians. They are knifing each other for the top job. Quite frankly, we are seeing this played out in the media.

Let me tell the House in two words what the infrastructure list that we saw in yesterday's paper is all about: total joke. It is a total joke. Let us be very clear: who knows where this money is coming from; maybe—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: I know those opposite hate it when I talk about infrastructure. They hate it when we talk about science. They hate it when we talk about Cross River Rail. They hate having conversations about delivering for Queenslanders.

I will put this in context: there is \$3.5 billion for a rail line in western Sydney. Who is the Prime Minister of Australia? The federal member who represents Cronulla! Who was the former prime minister? The harbour-side mansion prime minister! Sydney gets a good deal. Let us talk about what Melbourne gets. Melbourne gets a \$5 billion contribution for a rail line that does not even have a business case or an alignment. However, there is not one single cent for Cross River Rail and any funding given to Queensland—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am having trouble hearing the Deputy Premier and I am sitting next to her.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, please resume your seat. Members, we will wait for the House to come to order.

Ms TRAD: Their secret infrastructure plan is a total joke, just like the federal LNP government.
(Time expired)

Bus Service Contracts

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. During estimates, when questioned about bus service contracts, the minister told the Transport and Public Works Committee—

Just to clarify, Mr Chair, no emergency contracts have been used.

I table an excerpt from the Queensland Bus Industry Council's executive director's latest report, saying that TransLink did use emergency contracts with bus companies.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, detailing contract procurement for bus services [\[1276\]](#).

Will the minister please explain why he was wrong and now apologise to Queenslanders?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. My comments to the committee were accurate to my knowledge at the time. This is the first I have heard of this matter. I am happy to investigate it and report—

Mr Mander interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Deputy Leader of the Opposition! Order, members! I would like to hear the minister's response.

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to investigate the matter and report back to the House.

Defence Industries

Mr MADDEN: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House on the opportunities that the Queensland defence industries have in light of the recent changes at a federal level? Is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his ongoing support for Queensland defence manufacturing industries. Of course, the support of the member for Ipswich West and other members of the government stands in stark contrast to that of those members opposite. Today is the start of Land Forces 2018. It is the largest exhibition of military hardware in the Southern Hemisphere with hundreds of exhibitors coming, including Queensland companies and delegates from over 60 countries in our nation. Almost one month ago, on 9 August, the government wrote to the opposition asking for a pair so that I could represent Queensland at that important conference. We requested that pair again last week, after I had to raise it in the parliament. Finally, late last night we received an answer when the Leader of the Opposition said no to the pair, no to Land Forces 2018 and no to manufacturing jobs for Queensland.

They would sooner play parlour games. They are more interested in emails than in the single most important thing for Queensland, which is jobs. We know the federal coalition has no interest in building our nation—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, please resume your seat. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under standing orders. You have been repeatedly interjecting this morning. Your interjections were designed to disrupt.

Mr DICK: The Queensland opposition has no interest in jobs. Of course I should not have asked for a pair; I should have asked for an au pair and I would have got three straightaway—no questions asked. While Peter Dutton has been at the airport waving through visa violators like the Supernanny, Mary Poppins and Nanny McPhee, what do we get from the opposition? Absolutely nothing. Under the LNP, Australia takes refugees only from places of genuine humanitarian crisis—like Tuscany and the French Riviera! They are the only people who get into the country. What we need is jobs. We need bipartisanship on this. We need the LNP to put political interests last—

Ms Palaszczuk: And put Queensland first.

Mr DICK:—and put Queensland first. I take the interjection from the Premier. It has become a circus. I know one person who would not do this, and that is the member for Broadwater. The member for Broadwater would know that men like the member for Southern Downs and the member for Buderim have served in the ADF. What our defence forces need is the best equipment, and the best equipment will be manufactured in Queensland. We got the combat reconnaissance vehicle. Now we want the Lynx—a \$15 billion contract. The member for Broadwater has the capacity to put petty politics aside. The time is ticking on the Leader of the Opposition. She cannot even make a basic decision like that. To members of the backbench: you put this person in charge. You put the member for Nanango in charge. No wonder the member for Whitsunday is laughing. As a consequence, Queensland comes last.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I remind ministers that comments will come through the chair or I will start sitting you down.

Youth Detention Centres, Incidents

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women. Last week the mother of a youth offender told the media, 'I've seen them walk out of court and laugh. They go into detention and it's like a holiday.' With 1,248 assaults and risk-causing behaviour incidents reported in youth detention centres in just the first five months of this year, will the minister explain how Labor lost control of the youth justice system?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I would like to hear at some stage from the member—in fact, from anyone in the LNP—what their policy happens to be on youth justice. I had an opportunity this morning to read a ministerial statement about what is happening in youth justice and, in particular, address some of the media reporting around some incidents in the youth detention centres. What I talked about this morning was the fact that we now have in Queensland an accurate reporting system for what is happening in our youth detention centres—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana.

Ms FARMER:—unlike during the LNP years, when we had no idea really what was happening in that system. They wanted to hide what was happening and they had no way of seeing what needed to be done to effect real change. What this government is committed to—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Glass House, you are becoming very close to being warned under the standing orders. It is the same for you, member for Kawana.

Ms FARMER: This government is committed to making change in youth justice. That is why this year we transitioned 17-year-olds to the youth justice system. It is why we have recognised what is happening across youth justice. Increasingly, our young people in our youth detention centres are showing the effects of substance abuse. We are seeing increased incidents of young people with foetal alcohol syndrome and with other cognitive and behavioural impairments. We need to know what we are dealing with if we are going to effect real change. That is what we have done. Youth justice needs a consistent approach. Over there on that side we have flip one day and flop the next.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, you have been interjecting consistently all morning as well. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FARMER: Youth justice needs a consistent approach. One day we have the opposition leader calling our young people in the youth detention centres ‘thugs’; the next day she is calling on us for rehabilitation and for changing the story of those young people. One day we have the shadow minister saying that we need more early intervention; another day he is saying that we have to be tough on crime—‘Let’s lock them up and throw away the keys.’

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am having difficulty hearing the minister.

Ms FARMER: What I would like to know is—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Glass House, did you interject then? Did I hear you correctly?

Mr Powell: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: You are warned under standing orders. Members, I appreciate that there is some provocative language being used and I will allow for some discourse, but the minister could not be heard and I must hear the answer. I call the minister.

Ms FARMER: What we need to—

(Time expired)

Great Keppel Island

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on progress of the redevelopment of Great Keppel Island?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for her question. Many members will recall that it was the honourable member for Keppel who worked so hard to secure \$25 million from our government to get action on Great Keppel Island. In fact, this is part of more than \$180 million that we announced at the re-election of our government to grow tourism and tourism infrastructure across Queensland, particularly in regional parts of our state, because we know that it creates jobs.

Today I am very proud to announce that Tower Holdings is now in negotiations with two international companies to redevelop Great Keppel Island. This would not have been possible without the investment that we are making in consultation with the local mayor, Bill Ludwig, as well as Capricorn Enterprise, and the leadership of the local member. We know the potential that Great Keppel Island has as an international tourist destination. Everyone in this House will recall the infamous ad campaign, which Flo Bjelke-Petersen had a problem with at the time, to ‘get wrecked on Great Keppel Island’. Today’s announcement, as I said, is a direct result of the public investment we have made in Great Keppel Island.

The fact that we now have two major companies trying to outbid each other for a chance to develop Great Keppel Island just shows that this jewel in the Great Barrier Reef will have a future again. Both companies have now, I am advised, provided a non-refundable deposit to apply to redevelop the island. They will have six weeks to provide a final bid before Tower Holdings assesses the offers, progressing the sale of the lease.

Excitingly, with the change in the new economy, we have seen, as reported today in the *Brisbane Times* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, that, importantly, one of the interested parties is a cryptocurrency consortium that has plans to resurrect the island as a high-tech venue as well. This could be, we believe, the world's largest cryptocurrency backed property deal and one that will be happening for the first time potentially here in Queensland.

This goes to the heart of having a Labor government on this side of the House. When those opposite were in government they talked about tourism but they cut \$188 million from the forward estimates. We have also seen a lot of federal members hip-hopping across the north of Queensland. Apparently 'ScoMo' has worked out that Queensland exists but will not give us any money. After years and years of the NAIF doing absolutely nothing at all, we have got on with the job of delivering tourism infrastructure—the first program of its kind in our state—to create those jobs.

In conclusion, I want to acknowledge Brittany Lauga and the work that she has done on behalf of her local community. Everyone up there wants to see Great Keppel Island return to its former glory. I am so pleased today that we can announce that there are now two offers ahead to redevelop that island.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I remind you to refer to members by their correct title even if it is in a positive light.

Youth Detention Centres, Property Damage

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women. In the first five months under Minister Farmer, documents released under right to information show that there were 67 reported incidents of youth detainees damaging property and facilities inside Queensland youth detention centres. Will the minister advise the House what the cost to taxpayers was to repair all this damage?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for his question. I do not have those particular dollar figures at hand, but I am very happy to provide those as soon as they can be made available to me. It is quite pleasing to hear some questions from those opposite about youth justice because it means—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Ms FARMER: Perhaps it means that they are a bit interested in the issue. Maybe it means that they might be putting their heads together and coming up with a policy that they will stick with.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I cannot hear the minister.

Ms FARMER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We went to the last election and I think we were pretty clear on what their policy was on youth justice. They cut \$150 million out of their election commitments for youth justice. We went to the election with a very clear policy on youth justice. We made a very clear commitment. We have been very clear that we cannot keep doing the same thing over and over again in youth justice and expect the results to be different.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Please continue, Minister.

Ms FARMER: When we introduced the historic Youth Justice Bill, they opposed it. They are not into reform. We went to the election and their costings showed they were taking \$150 million out of the youth justice system.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North!

Ms FARMER: That money was committed to assisting us to implement our reforms including the very things that are going to help us address the issues they are raising about youth detention centres—the security upgrades, the new bed capacity, the infrastructure upgrades.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat. Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders for repeated interjections.

Ms FARMER: Since then it has been really difficult to work out what they think. One day we have the Leader of the Opposition saying, 'they are thugs' the next day we have to be proposing measures—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Continue, Minister.

Ms FARMER: The next day she wants us to be proposing rehabilitation measures. One day the shadow minister is talking about early intervention; the next day he is saying, 'Name and shame.' Then there is the future leader over there. He is pretty consistent—

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! When I call the House to order, I expect the House to come to order.

Energy Policy


Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's latest key energy policy initiatives? Is the minister aware of any alternatives?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Mansfield for her question. It is great to live in the Sunshine State—the state that is leading the nation in energy policy. We are unwaveringly focused on two things: downward pressure on power prices and 50 per cent renewables by 2030—unwavering. We underpin that focus with public ownership of our assets, unlike those opposite. Through an affordable energy plan, the Palaszczuk government offers incentives to families to decrease their power bills and also to decrease pollution and to address climate change.

Just last week we announced a new publicly owned company, CleanCo, to progress renewable energy in this state. Let me contrast this with the so-called alternatives for Queenslanders. We continue to get nothing but chaos and confusion about energy policy, au pairs and leadership in Canberra. For months my department and I have been working on the national energy guarantee. Then the federal government party room Neanderthals tore down their own house and put their leader to the sword all because someone said 'cut emissions'. The PM is gone. The energy minister is the Treasurer. The Treasurer is the PM—the PM before the last one. The old deputy prime minister has been given a job that no-one has ever heard about, and up pops the new energy minister who leaks a speech that does not even mention the NEG. NEG, we hardly knew you!

An incident having occurred in the public gallery—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Sergeant-at-Arms will remove these members from the gallery. I understand that there may have also been some videotaping or recording of proceedings by members in the gallery. I will ask parliamentary security and police to have a look at it and examine any members who are involved in those incidents. It is my expectation that those will be deleted. It is against the standing orders to record from the gallery.

 Honourable members, I apologise for what is I think one of the most disrespectful incidents I have seen since I have been a member of this House. Parliamentary security and the Queensland Police Service will be dealing with those members of the gallery who have offended the standing orders and, quite frankly, I think offended other members of the gallery who are here to watch parliamentary proceedings.

Mr BROWN: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. I understand that there were some in the media who also had their cameras out.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I will take that under advisement and provide some appropriate responses to the media as well.

I want to acknowledge in the gallery the Pallara State School, Wisdom College and Watson Road State School from the electorate of Algeester. Welcome to the Queensland parliament and thank you for being on your best behaviour—certainly better behaved than others.

The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy has approximately two minutes remaining on the clock.

Dr LYNHAM: May I just reflect that I am halfway through answering a question on renewable energy. I also take this opportunity on behalf of the House to apologise to the schoolchildren in the gallery who witnessed such disrespectful behaviour.

Let us be clear that Queensland supports a national energy policy framework where we can provide lower electricity prices for everyone, and certainly for investors. Industry is crying out for certainty. I have written to Canberra asking for clarity, but I have yet to have a phone call from Canberra. Everything with those opposite supports privatisation—the Grattan report, the ACCC report—and now they have found their ringmaster, another Sydney merchant banker, Angus Taylor. There is nothing a merchant banker loves better than a big, juicy privatisation.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have given consideration to the fact that that disruption was not due to anyone in this chamber. I will be extending question time by two minutes.

School Transport Assistance Scheme

Ms BOLTON: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. With reference to the access criteria for the School Transport Assistance Scheme, will the minister please advise why the department will not review this criteria, given the growing number of children in shared care arrangements, as encouraged by the family law system since 2006, who do not have equitable access to this transport compared to those children living in one location?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. We have a range of policies in place to try to have a transport system that is as fair as it can be. That does not always mean that everybody agrees with every aspect of it, but obviously we need to ensure that our transport services are equitably addressed and accessed by people. In terms of the specific issues raised by the member for Noosa, I am very happy to meet with her and discuss her issues specifically to understand them better and see what we can do. I know she will be representing her constituents very sincerely, and I am happy to meet with her and discuss this.

Health Services, Federal Funding

Mr RUSSO: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Given that Australia has a new Prime Minister, will the minister update the House on the effects the new leader will have on the state of health care in Queensland, particularly for my constituents?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Toohey for his ongoing advocacy for healthcare services in his electorate. It was only a few weeks ago that we toured QEII hospital and a new expanded private hospital in his electorate, and I know that he is very concerned about the impact of federal government policies on health care for his constituents. Unfortunately, I have only bad news for the member for Toohey.

The election of Scott Morrison as our new Prime Minister is bad news for health care right across Queensland. It was Scott Morrison as Treasurer who refused to pay our hospitals for 51 weeks for services already delivered. Our hospitals are still owed \$780 million in outstanding activity payments that Scott Morrison as Treasurer refused to sign off. The new Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, continues to withhold that \$780 million owed to our hospitals. For the benefit of the member for Toohey, \$186 million of that is in Metro South, where that QEII hospital is.

As well, it was Scott Morrison as Treasurer who locked in the cut in hospital funding from 50 to 45 per cent, which cut \$160 million from Queensland hospitals. It was Scott Morrison as Treasurer who cut aged-care funding, who restricted aged-care beds, leading to the crisis that the health committee will explore, as the Premier announced this morning. It was Scott Morrison who tried to raise the Medicare levy. It was Scott Morrison who voted against plain packaging for tobacco products. It was Scott Morrison who voted twice against increasing the age pension for older Queenslanders and voted three times to increase the cost of medicines under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

We might hope, now that he is Prime Minister and not Treasurer, that he will turn over a new leaf. Maybe while he is in Townsville today he will go to Townsville Hospital and offer them the \$55.3 million they are owed. However, I am sad to inform the House that the first letter I got under the new leadership of Scott Morrison was a demand from the Commonwealth to cut another \$50 million a year out of our hospitals. That is not just for next year; they want to cut it from this year, from last year and from the

year before that. I say to those opposite: your candidate did not win, Peter did not win. He is on the ropes. They are leaking against him now. You owe Scott Morrison nothing, and it is time for you to stand up for Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will refer your comments through the chair.

Dr MILES: It is time for those opposite to stand up for Queensland and stop backing Scott Morrison.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence, Public Service Leave Provisions

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister explain why the Labor government is giving 10 days of taxpayer funded leave to perpetrators of domestic violence and what do taxpayers get for this funding?

Ms FARMER: I thank the honourable member for his question. I am delighted there is so much interest in my portfolio this morning, and it is about time too. As members opposite are well aware, this government is intent on implementing the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* task force. There were 140 recommendations, 121 of which were intended for government. We have completed 92 of those recommendations, and we are well on our way to implementing the remainder.

One of those recommendations was about addressing the causes of domestic violence and the importance of implementing domestic violence recommendations in the workplace. Recommendation 39 talked about not only supporting the victims of domestic violence but also addressing the causes of domestic violence and the perpetrators of domestic violence. This government was the first government in Australia to introduce domestic violence leave for employees and to protect employees in those situations from dismissal. I want to acknowledge the role of the Premier in advocating nationally for all states and territories to take our lead on that. That means that there are women and men all over the Public Service who know that we have zero tolerance in our workplace for domestic and family violence and that we are providing a supportive environment.

Leaders in the field of domestic violence, such as DVConnect and White Ribbon Australia, advocate that, without addressing the behaviour of those who use or may use violence, the cycle of domestic violence will not be broken. We need to break that cycle.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southport.

Ms FARMER: The statements from the public sector commission yesterday made it very clear that we do not record individual instances and details around domestic violence leave.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Southport, I have just warned you and you are continuing to interject. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FARMER: That will preserve the privacy of those people who are seeking that leave. It is available under the current directive to perpetrators of domestic violence. However, it is at the discretion of the leaders of those departments to grant that leave. I think we can be certain that, in instances where perpetrators are seeking leave to address their behaviours, that leave would in all likelihood be granted.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the next member to ask a question, members, the material that was haphazardly thrown from the gallery is somewhat slippery. I want to make sure all members are aware of that, so watch your footing as you continue to move around the chamber.

Education

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister advise the House of the key issues for Queensland schools and how the new Prime Minister and the federal education minister can assist?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Redlands for the question. She knows very well, particularly in her area, that education is the key equaliser for everyone in this state. I thank her for that question. Prior to the recent debacle that we saw in Canberra, Queenslanders had already worked out that the federal government is ripping millions of dollars from schools right across the state to give to the big banks, to give to the big end of town, in tax cuts. I want to know whether the new Prime Minister is going to fix this cut in funding to education.

When it comes to education we know that Malcolm Turnbull and Simon Birmingham left things in an absolute and complete mess. Honourable members should not take my word for it; the federal government's own figures laid bare the claim that it is not okay when it comes to a fair deal for state and Catholic schools. The federal government's data released on 2 March 2018 confirms that over the next 10 years Queensland state schools will be \$2.1 billion worse off under the federal government's current funding model than we would have been had the education reform agreement not been terminated last year. Of all those funding cuts, 85 per cent are earmarked for state schools. I repeat: 85 per cent are earmarked for state schools. That means we will be ripped off this year to the tune of \$84 million for the state system and \$182 million next year for the state system. It keeps going until we reach \$2.1 billion over 10 years, and that is just the state sector in Queensland.

It is no wonder the Catholic sector is also up in arms; it will receive \$19 million less this year, rising to nearly \$40 million next year. Over those 10 years, nearly a billion dollars will be ripped out of funding for the Catholic education system. No wonder Turnbull and Birmingham in their dying days brokered a secret peace deal with the Catholic sector worth \$4.4 billion. It remains to be seen whether that will see the light of day.

I ask the current minister and the Prime Minister, who was the treasurer who introduced those tax cuts, to fund Queensland fairly. We need fair funding now for our state schools. We cannot wait, yet I do not hear one word from those opposite advocating for Queensland state schools to get their fair funding now. Not a word! There is absolute silence—nothing. They are so quick to whinge about everything to do with education; they whinge about this and they whinge about that. I say to them: stand up for Queensland. Demand our funding back and do what they can to bring about fair funding now.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence, Public Service Leave Provisions

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Premier. I ask: is it acceptable for Queensland taxpayers to fund holidays for the perpetrators of the scourge on our communities, that scourge being domestic violence?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Let me address that question perhaps this way. This government is very proud of its record in terms of implementing the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. We seek to give those victims of domestic violence the resources and support they need to rebuild their lives. Let me assure the House the missing piece of that is to ensure that the perpetrators do not reoffend. After consultation—

Mr Bleijie: Put them in jail.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The courts would have ordered it one way or the other. I want to see those perpetrators not reoffend.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As a society in Queensland, that is exactly what everyone in this House should subscribe to. As the minister said, this is a recommendation of the *Not now, not ever* report. I am very proud of the men on the government side who have signed up to be champions of the prevention of domestic and family violence and the White Ribbon cause. I would like to see all male members of this House sign up to that as well.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me make it very clear. We will ensure that the victims get the support and the help they need. If the court has ordered that perpetrators need to go and get help, they will go and get that help.

Training, School Leavers

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. I ask: will the minister please inform the House about the work the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing to help school leavers get the skills and training they need to pursue their career goals?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. I know how committed he is to making sure that local kids in his electorate get the training they need. I know what a big supporter he is of the Alexandra Hills TAFE campus.

Last week, with the member for Macalister, Melissa McMahon, I had the privilege of attending the annual Paddock to Plate lunch at the Beenleigh State High School to announce some fantastic news. I announced that year 12 graduates will get free TAFE. There will be 160 high-priority courses on offer for year 12 graduates. The principal of Beenleigh State High School, Mr Matt Hanlon, was full of praise, saying, 'This might be the hook that gets students engaged with a lifetime occupation and a love of learning that is so important to all of us.' Our Paddock to Plate host, chef Matt Golinski, a proud TAFE graduate, was on hand to say—

It is something we are crying out for in the industry. We need more people to be excited about being chefs and have access to that education.

Beenleigh State High School student Emily said, 'Free TAFE changes everything. So many people can't afford to go to TAFE including myself.'

This is a game-changer. The one person who did not seem to get behind this announcement was the member for Nanango. The member for Nanango seemed to get a little bit confused about the numbers again in responding to media reports on Twitter. When she heard the news she asked, 'Is that 160 students?' The answer was quick: 'No, it is 160 high-priority courses available to all year 12 graduates.' The range of courses means that there is something for everyone. Even the students in the member for Nanango's electorate where the Kingaroy TAFE campus is located can have access to a certificate III in early childhood education, a certificate III in rural operations, a certificate III in individual support and a certificate III in hospitality. With 160 courses on offer, the future is certainly looking bright for our year 12 graduates.

Of course, this is not the first time that the member for Nanango has had the numbers all wrong. Who can forget how the member for Nanango dealt with our record jobs growth by incorrectly claiming in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* that people in Toowoomba were taking a year to find work? Embarrassingly, the Australian Bureau of Statistics had to publicly correct the member for Nanango in the paper, saying that the time taken to find a job in Toowoomba was one of the lowest in the state.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: They just do not get it. If they got it, they would not be cutting Skilling Queenslanders for Work and they would not be talking down our TAFE. It is time that those opposite invested in training and jobs.

(Time expired)

Domestic and Family Violence, GPS Tracking Devices

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. I refer to recent media reports about the use of GPS trackers for high-risk domestic violence offenders on the Gold Coast, and I ask: will the Premier overrule her police minister and direct that trackers be available and located on the Gold Coast so that vulnerable victims are better protected?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Mudgeeraba might know that it is actually the courts that direct that, not the police minister.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Road Safety

Mr MELLISH: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and I ask: will the minister update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to stop motorists speeding on Queensland roads?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes to answer this question.

Mr BAILEY: Speeding is one of the fatal five that sadly kill all too many Queenslanders on our roads. In fact, 52 lives were lost due to speeding on our roads last year. That is 52 too many, but that is an improvement on three years ago—in 2014—when 65 were killed. One reason for that improvement is the provisions we made to enforce speeding compliance across our network. Every week 19 people


are killed or seriously injured in crashes across Queensland, so you would think that during Road Safety Week everyone would get behind road safety measures in a bipartisan way to get our road toll down and attack the fatal five.

Sadly, we saw the Leader of the Opposition propose a new policy to water down provisions to deal with speeding on our roads. That is a disgrace. A study from the Monash University Accident Research Centre showed that Queensland's road safety cameras prevented 3,400 casualty crashes in 2015, with 98 per cent of those savings as a result of using speed cameras. Speeding is still a scourge on our roads, yet the Leader of the Opposition is trying to take us back to the bad old days when speeding was much more acceptable. Random speed cameras mean that people can be caught speeding anywhere, anytime. It is shameful that, during Road Safety Week, the Leader of the Opposition is proposing a watering down of road safety measures in terms of enforcing speed compliance on our roads in a desperate attempt to get her polling numbers up. If you do not want to be fined for speeding, do not speed. Last year speeding killed one Queenslanders every week. It is a disgraceful abrogation of her leadership responsibilities to water down road safety during Road Safety Week.

(Time expired)


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Incident in Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, like all people in our community, members of parliament have the right to feel safe in their workplace. I appreciate that, not knowing what the material was, the earlier incident may have caused some distress to members. Of course, appropriate action is being taken. The Clerk has issued notices under section 51 of the act. I will be looking very closely at that incident in terms of our security procedures and guidelines here in Parliament House. Certainly the matter will be discussed by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question, Bus Service Contracts

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.42 am): I rise to update the House on a response to the member for Chatsworth earlier in question time relating to my statements during estimates. At estimates I responded to a question from the member for Chatsworth by stating, 'No emergency contracts have been used.' I am informed that at the time of estimates there were no emergency bus service contracts in place. Emergency contracts are used from time to time as required. A small number had been in place prior to the estimates hearing, but these had been finalised by the time of estimates.


Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left! Members under warnings are advised that they will be under that warning until the luncheon adjournment. I call the minister.

Mr BAILEY: As such, no emergency contracts were in place when I gave my answer to the member for Chatsworth. I would also like to add that this is an operational matter for TransLink. I also confirm that TransLink has advised that there are currently no emergency contracts in place at this time.

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.43 am), by leave, without notice: In accordance with sessional order 2B, and notwithstanding anything in the standing orders, I move—

1. That the following government bills will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time for each bill specified:
 - (a) the Plumbing and Drainage Bill, a maximum of four hours to complete all stages;
 - (b) the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill a maximum of three hours to complete all stages; and
 - (c) the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill, a maximum of three hours to complete all stages.

2. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 6 September 2018, Mr Speaker:
- (a) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate;
 - (b) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (c) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

In moving the inaugural business program motion in this chamber, without anticipating debate I would like to make some brief comments in relation to the bills that will be considered this week and the overall work that will be undertaken by the House this week. As I outlined last parliament in the debate establishing the Business Committee—

No matter how popular any individual or government of the day might be, the perception of politicians out there generally is very cynical. We can blame society. We can blame the media. We can blame a whole lot of things for that cynicism. The reality is that ultimately it starts with us and our behaviour and the way we conduct ourselves.

The people of Queensland want to see us in here working constructively and in the best interests of all Queenslanders. That does not mean that we have to agree on everything every time. Indeed, the best public policy outcomes for Queenslanders occur when there is debate and opinions from multiple sides put forward. This chamber is a chamber of debate and ideas. It is also a chamber that needs to set the tone and set an example of how we should behave. The present will soon be the past, and we all have a collective responsibility to ensure that the legacy of the 56th Parliament is a positive one and not one of obstruction and frustration. It is incumbent on us all to respect the traditions and practices of this House but also be willing to adapt and evolve to meet community expectations. This new Business Committee model seeks to go some way to achieve this.


The Business Committee met for the first time last night to consider the allocation of time for government bills for this week's sitting. I would like to acknowledge the Manager of Opposition Business and the member for Noosa, who attended on behalf of the crossbench members, and the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, who attended on behalf of the Premier and Minister for Trade, for attending the meeting last night. In any comments I make, I make it clear that that does mean there is a consent position on any of this.

Pursuant to sessional order 2A(2), the role of the Business Committee is to aim to agree as to how the House will deal with government business. In doing so, the Business Committee took into consideration a number of factors including, but not limited to: the recommendations provided by the parliamentary committee process, a committee process that allows for the detailed scrutiny by not only members of this House but also members of the public; statements of reservation and any opposing ideas; and any amendments that may be moved during consideration in detail of the debate. Additionally, other business that is conducted in this chamber was taken into consideration when allocating the overall time available for the debate and consideration of government bills.

As honourable members would know, this chamber has already considered a motion of condolence this morning for the late Nev Warburton. At the conclusion of this motion the government will introduce legislation, and later today the House will consider the LNP member for Burdekin's disallowance motion. On Thursday the House will consider a number of committee reports on important matters that are being considered by our parliamentary committees in addition to the motion that will be moved by the Premier to fill, at the will of the House, the Senate vacancy created by the resignation of the former Greens senator, Mr Bartlett. This is all in addition to the usual matters that this House considers during each sitting week, that being: question time; matters of public interest and private members' statements—which provide an opportunity for members, in particular backbenchers, to put important matters on the record—adjournment statements and private member's motions. This means that 7½ hours of important non-government time each week is debated as well as important time allotted for government debates.

With this in mind, the motion before us today allocates: four hours for the Plumbing and Drainage Bill; three hours for the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill; and three hours for the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill. I understand that Minister de Brenni has offered briefings and provided a briefing to the opposition on the plumbing bill. I outline these factors to the House and ask for the support of the House in this motion.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.48 am): This is another Labor attack on democracy in the great state of Queensland. As I said last sitting, the Leader of the House can put on a soft voice and sit around the table like we did yesterday at 5.30 and sing *Kum ba yah* but, as I said when I addressed the

meeting yesterday, the meeting has no power. It makes recommendations to the Premier and the Premier decides what happens this week—or, in the case of this government, the Deputy Premier decides what happens here this week. I suspect that, if the Deputy Premier had asked Minister Bailey to check his emails and change his emails, he would take notice of the Deputy Premier and do it.

I agree with the Leader of the House on one thing. She said that the public looks at politicians with a level of cynicism. I agree. You would have to, if you looked at historical context and looked at what the Premier said only a few short years ago. When the Premier was opposition leader she said of Labor opposition members—

We are prepared to stay to the early hours of the morning to debate this legislation. We are prepared to stay here and work through the night to make sure that the voices of workers are heard in relation to this bill.

I understand why the public would treat us with a level of cynicism when the honourable the Premier said that in her role as opposition leader only a few short years ago. She also said in another debate—

Let the debate be without guillotine.

Every Tuesday morning we will debate a guillotine for the week ahead. The now Premier, the member for Inala, said—

Let the debate be without guillotine. Let the members of this House express themselves and not have a government put the gag order in relation to—

these issues. She went on—

There are 22 names on the list ... and if 22 members want to speak on this bill they should be able to speak on this bill.

How times have changed—and the Leader of the House wants to know why the Queensland public are cynical of politicians and their motives! That is the reason. There is another reason. As an example, the member for Woodridge came into the chamber this morning and had a big cry because the Manager of Opposition Business did not give a pair so he could travel to Adelaide for a few days. The member for Woodridge should understand that Labor has a majority. He does not need my blessing to fly to Adelaide; he ought to go to the Leader of the House and get her permission. It is not up to the opposition. Again, maybe he went to the wrong office. Maybe he should have walked upstairs to the Deputy Premier's office rather than to the minister's room next door. He was speaking to the wrong person. He should put the leave request in to the Deputy Premier.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been very tolerant, but the member for Kawana has strayed very far from the motion before the House. I ask that he be brought back to the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. I will consider your comments and I will rule accordingly.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, to save you the trouble of considering it, I do not even know what the motion is about. I turn back to the issue at hand—that is, the arrogance and the rot that has set in with the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is arrogance; it is the rot.


Government members stand up in the chamber and say, 'We want to work with the crossbench and the opposition in terms of what bills they want.' I will tell honourable colleagues how it went down yesterday. While I was in our party room I received a text message from the Leader of the House that said, 'These are the bills to be debated this week. All you have to do is let us know how much time you want on each bill.' The government had already decided which bills were going to be debated this week. It was not the case that I was going to sit in this meeting at 5.30 pm and offer an alternative proposition to the Leader of the House. It is a joke! I got a text message. As if I am going to go into the 5.30 pm meeting and say, 'We want to debate this piece of legislation,' and the Leader of the House will be accommodating of that request! This is a ruse. It is a guise for nothing more than the government being arrogant, ignorant of the people's wishes and concerns, and intolerant of the views of other people in this chamber. That is what it is. Those opposite do not want to have the debate.

Let's look at the three bills mentioned in the motion. The time allocated for each bill is three hours or four hours. If we divide that in half, the opposition gets 1½ hours—or at best two hours—including consideration in detail, to debate the legislation. If we divide that time by 10 minutes we see that two-thirds of the opposition members will not be able to be heard this week. The views of members of the plumbing industry, truck drivers and other constituents ought to be heard in the debate of the relevant bills.

When we look at the comments of the now Premier from only a few years ago we can see that the story has been completely flipped. Years ago the now Premier stood in this House as opposition leader and said, 'I want to be open and accountable to the people of Queensland.' What a joke! She has shown the Labor government for what it is. She says, 'I hear nothing. I see nothing. I know nothing.' I agree with that. The Premier knows nothing, sees nothing and does nothing in this state. This motion is arrogant and ignorant and it should be opposed.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, members. There have been several examples of members putting the emphasis on the wrong syllable today. I would like to ensure that people are not pushing that.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.54 am): I am pleased to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the House, just as I was pleased to attend the first meeting of the parliamentary Business Committee last night. This new committee—and this motion today—will ensure that the House maximises the time it spends on the matters that members want to spend time discussing. It will deliver to members certainty about what will be debated when and for how long. It will ensure that stakeholders and members of the public can be in the gallery when a bill they are concerned about is being debated or watch online with knowledge of when a particular bill will be debated.


The Leader of the House and I came to that meeting in good faith, well prepared for the discussion. We knew how many people—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat. Member for Toowoomba North, I am sure you do not want to be the first person removed from the chamber over the parliamentary business program. I ask you to cease your interjections.

Dr MILES: The Leader of the House and I came to that meeting with knowledge of how many members of our caucus wanted to speak to each bill, with knowledge of which committee reports were contentious and which were not, and having consulted ministers to see who had amendments and who did not. The member for Noosa well represented the crossbench on behalf of the member for Hill. I think one good outcome of these reforms is that the crossbench will be better informed about the business of the House each and every week. Sadly, though, those opposite were very poorly represented at the meeting. The member for Kawana came along with no insights about which bills his members thought were more important or less important. He sat there and sulked. He made no contribution whatsoever. I say to those opposite: I understand that you do not support this process—and that is fine; you can continue to oppose it—but, for the sake of his own members, the Manager of Opposition Business should at least come in the knowledge of which bills his members want to debate and for how much time. He should contribute to the meeting because it will make this House run better and ensure opposition members get more of a chance to speak to the matters of concern to them.

As the Leader of the House has outlined, the outcome of that meeting was the motion moved by the Leader of the House. Three bills will be debated this week. We will spend four hours on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill, in recognition that the minister has amendments that members might want to debate during consideration in detail. The other two bills will each have three hours of debate. I, for one, am looking forward to knowing which bills will be debated when and for how long this week. I think it is a very good reform. I am looking forward to it.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.57 am): I rise to speak against the government's motion. This is a sad day in the Queensland parliament. This is a sad day for democracy in this state. Never in the history of this parliament have we had to debate a motion that outlines what we are allowed to speak about and how long we are allowed to speak about it.

Those on the other side of the House made some snide remarks at different times this morning about the Joh era. I am sure that some members opposite—I imagine that the members for Woodridge and Inala would have been there—would have protested in street marches in the late 1970s and 1980s about not being able to democratically come together and have their say. They are now defying the same principle they fought for. The thing that probably motivated them to come into politics—that is, the circumvention of free speech—is now the thing they are advocating for.

This is a constant theme of this parliament. This Labor government has tried everything possible to make sure that it will not come under the scrutiny that it deserves. At first we had the so-called family-friendly hours and those changes meant that we now have committee meetings on Monday mornings, yet that is definitely not family friendly for the regional members on our side of the House because many of them have to leave on Sunday morning to ensure that they get to the parliament on time. Those opposite talk about family-friendly hours, but I do not see any of them running off home at 7.30 each night to go back to their families because they have other motivations for their family-friendly hours. We saw the absolute farce of the estimates hearings of blocking questions from the opposition—reasonable questions—because those opposite do not want to come under scrutiny.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Moggill. It was a protection racket. Even last week when there was a committee meeting to discuss a bill before the House—and I will not mention the bill—members from the Labor side of the government—

Mrs Frecklington: Pine Rivers.

Mr MANDER: The member for Pine Rivers—I take that interjection—and the member for Thuringowa were blocking totally reasonable questions.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MANDER: It was the member for Thuringowa, was it not?

An opposition member: Logan.

Mr MANDER: Sorry, it was the member for Logan blocking questions. This constant theme is taking place with this government stopping our ability to ask questions.

There are 39 members on this side of the House and a quick calculation shows that we represent 1.4 million constituents in this state. Those 1.4 million constituents deserve to have their MPs get up in parliament and speak on any bill that they want to speak to. We will be going back to those 1.4 million constituents to tell them what is happening in this House—that is, we are not allowed to speak on what we want to speak on for as long as we want to speak on it. We are going to remind them and remind them and remind them of the arrogance of this government.

What is it trying to hide? It is pretty obvious when we see during question time today that the main roads minister was under interrogation about his failure to obey a direction from the Premier and when we see the minister who is responsible for youth justice and domestic violence justifying taxpayers' money for perpetrators of domestic violence to have leave. This type of thing is unbelievable and these are the questions that our 1.4 million constituents want us to ask of this government. Every sitting week in this parliament at this time we will get up and speak about our democratic right. We will not relent on this because this is an important principle of our democracy and we will let everybody know what this government is trying to achieve.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 48:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 43:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Grn, 1—Berkman.


KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Resolved in the affirmative.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

Message from Governor

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.07 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (No. 2) 2018

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial year starting 1 July 2017

GOVERNOR

Date: 4 September 2018

Tabled paper: Message, dated 4 September 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 [\[1274\]](#).

Introduction

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.08 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2017. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 [\[1252\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018, explanatory notes [\[1253\]](#).

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018 provides supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service in 2017-18 of \$5.140 million.

The unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service was primarily due to costs associated with the 2017 electoral boundary distribution and state election. Lower equity adjustments were also applied to offset the additional departmental services. Together with the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018, which is also introduced today, the total supplementary appropriation for 2017-18 is \$555 million.

First Reading

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.10 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

Message from Governor

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.10 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from His Excellency recommends Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL (No. 2) 2018

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2017

GOVERNOR

Date: 4 September 2018

Tabled paper: Message, dated 4 September 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018 [[1273](#)].

Introduction

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.10 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2017. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018 [[1250](#)].

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018, explanatory notes [[1251](#)].

Today, I table the *Consolidated Fund financial report 2017-18*, or the CFFR, which outlines by department total appropriation from the Consolidated Fund for the financial year. The CFFR provides explanations for each department of any variations from the annual appropriation amount originally approved as part of the 2017-18 budget. This includes explanations for any unforeseen expenditure that was required during 2017-18.

‘Unforeseen expenditure’ is the term used to describe payments from the Consolidated Fund above the amount originally approved on an individual departmental basis. Today, I am introducing the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2018, which provides for supplementary appropriation for this unforeseen expenditure. In 2017-18, seven departments incurred unforeseen expenditure of \$494.915 million.

In 2017-18, close to half of the unforeseen expenditure related to accelerated state and Commonwealth funding for transport infrastructure, including the Bruce Highway upgrade and other state roads. A further significant proportion of the unforeseen expenditure related to the on-passing of Commonwealth funding for financial assistance grants to local government. The remaining unforeseen expenditure related to a range of initiatives, including the Affordable Energy Plan and the Townsville water security enhancement project.

Together with the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2018, which was also introduced today, the total supplementary appropriation for 2017-18 is \$500.055 million. In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Accountability Act 2009, I table the CFFR—the *Consolidated Fund financial report*. The CFFR provides a statement containing particulars of transactions of the Consolidated Fund and details the appropriation paid to each department during that financial year. The CFFR outlines by department total appropriation from the Consolidated Fund for the financial year. I commend the bill to the House.

Tabled paper: *Consolidated Fund Financial Report 2017-18* [[1275](#)].

First Reading

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.13 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

FISHERIES (SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES STRATEGY) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (12.13 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Fisheries Act 1994, the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 and the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018 [[1254](#)].

Tabled paper: Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[1255](#)].

Today, I am pleased to introduce the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. The modernisation of Queensland's Fisheries Act is a significant step in implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy that the Palaszczuk government released in June last year. The delivery of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy was—and is—a key election commitment of the Palaszczuk government. This bill is a critical step in making the goals and objectives of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy a reality.

This bill complements the government's delivery of other key aspects of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy over the past year, including the funding of 20 additional Queensland boating and fishing patrol officers; the establishment of working groups for priority fisheries; the establishment of a sustainable fisheries expert panel; greater recognition of fishing sectors, like the charter fishing industry; and funding for monitoring and vessel tracking rebates. These achievements are detailed in the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy progress report, tabled earlier this year at estimates.

The bill will help support the thousands of jobs that rely on sustainable fisheries resources, deliver more responsive decision-making and help protect fisheries in the Great Barrier Reef. This bill puts the structures in place to allow for best practice management in Queensland fisheries.

Queensland's current fisheries management framework has become outdated and cumbersome. Decision-making processes are slow and unclear and Queensland's ability to respond to issues such as black marketing lags behind other Australian jurisdictions. A contemporary framework is required to appropriately respond to sustainability issues. Queenslanders are passionate about this issue and have taken the opportunity, offered by our government, to have their say about the management of this iconic public resource.

In 2016, more than 11,000 Queenslanders took the opportunity to comment on the *Green paper on fisheries management reform in Queensland*. The overwhelming message from all stakeholders was that they wanted reform in the way we manage our fisheries. I have encountered the same feedback in my own travels around the state, whether it was meeting recreational and charter fishers in Weipa, commercial fishers on the Fraser Coast, or launching the Australian Fish and Chips awards at Southbank.

The Palaszczuk government released the discussion paper on the proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act in March this year, with strong support for the changes that are outlined in the bill that I am introducing today. The bill is consistent with recommendations made by independent consultants MRAG Asia Pacific, commissioned by the LNP government in 2014, so I look forward to bipartisan support for this bill.

The bill focuses on four key elements: modernising the objectives of the Fisheries Act to recognise the interests of key stakeholder groups; clarifying the decision-making processes and establishing harvest strategies to guide decisions; strengthening the compliance powers and penalties to address serious fisheries offences such as black marketing; reducing complexity; and removing redundant provisions.

A key component of the bill is to provide stronger compliance powers and penalties for serious offences such as seafood black marketing. During consultation earlier this year, more than 90 per cent of respondents supported the adoption of stronger compliance powers and penalties to address such serious fisheries offences. The bill will provide fisheries inspectors the powers needed to effectively investigate such offences. Individuals convicted of trafficking in priority fish species could face a maximum penalty of up to 3,000 penalty units—currently \$391,650, or three years imprisonment. These penalties are in line with those in place in other Australian states where they have proven effective in combating black marketing. Queenslanders want action taken to stop the black marketing of seafood in this state, which undermines legitimate fishing businesses, and the bill delivers on this.

While fisheries inspectors will have greater powers to inspect commercial premises, these changes do not provide fisheries inspectors with powers beyond those granted to inspectors under other Queensland legislation. Importantly, there are no changes that would allow access to tents, campsites, or any places used for residential purposes without a warrant.

This bill will also introduce a new penalty for not complying with vessel tracking requirements. This will help give effect to the government's commitment to require vessel tracking equipment to be fitted to all licensed commercial and charter boats by 2020. Importantly, the bill also strengthens protections for individual's private data, including their vessel location data, with penalties for anyone disclosing that private information.

The bill also provides for more responsive decision-making on fisheries matters through the use of harvest strategies that set out pre-agreed and approved rules for each fishery to achieve the agreed ecological, economic and/or social objectives. The minister will be responsible for strategic oversight through the approval of harvest strategies, while the chief executive will be responsible for day-to-day management and making fisheries declarations in accordance with the approved harvest strategy. The bill provides a safeguard with the minister having the option to direct the chief executive to make a different decision in relation to a harvest strategy.

The minister will also retain responsibility for decisions around reallocating access to fisheries resources from one sector to another, like establishing net-free zones. This approach is also consistent with contemporary best practice fisheries management and is one of the major commitments in the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy to have harvest strategies in place for all major fisheries by 2020. The bill also establishes a 20-metre exclusion zone around the nets and baited drumlines used by the Shark Control Program to help prevent people interfering with the gear and ensure the safety of people swimming on Queensland beaches.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to consultation. We believe there is an important place for all stakeholders in managing our fisheries resources, which is why they are being more formally recognised in the act. We support sustainable commercial fisheries in Queensland to provide local seafood and jobs. We support improving the recreational fishing experience and we support maintaining access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities to fisheries resources. The proposed changes are consistent with other Queensland legislation and will bring Queensland in line with other Australian fisheries jurisdictions and best practice management. The changes being made through this bill are part of the government's long-term strategy to ensure our fisheries resources are managed in a sustainable and responsible manner. The bill will provide the framework to ensure that our fisheries will continue to provide economic, social and cultural benefits to the Queensland community well into the future.

I would like to welcome all members of parliament to join me outside at lunchtime to celebrate the graduation of our 20 new Queensland boating and fisheries patrol officers. It is fitting that today we introduce this bill which will give our new officers the tools they need to do their job effectively. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (12.21 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


Referral to State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 123).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (12.22 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak on the resumption of the debate on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018. The bill has two main objectives. Firstly, it establishes a new Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018 and repeals the current 2002 act. Secondly, it provides for the amendment of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 to establish a new licence for mechanical services and a new licence for medical gas work in Queensland.

I will start by reflecting on some of the principles of the bill specifically in relation to, first and foremost, plumbing and drainage. The new Plumbing and Drainage Act will deliver a contemporary, streamlined and flexible legislative framework for plumbing and drainage, one that is clear and one that is simple and straightforward for the end user. The new act that will be created will be supported by a new single plumbing and drainage regulation and a revised Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code. The new act will deliver a number of key reforms that will save time and money for Queensland home owners. That is good news for home owners and good news for industry, all whilst maintaining the high health and safety standards that have been set in Queensland communities.

In relation to fast-track permit approvals, the new act provides a new fast-track permit application model. That means that most home owners will be able to fast track their permit application and obtain a permit to start work in just two business days, a reduction from the current 20 business days. The time frame for more complex projects, such as multiunit residential and commercial buildings, will also be reduced. It will be halved from 20 business days down to 10 business days. Faster approvals mean faster construction. If a project can be started sooner it can be finished sooner and the next project can be moved on to. Queensland home owners could save an estimated \$640 in holding costs on a \$255,000 block by being able to commence plumbing work 18 days earlier. Queenslanders can rest assured there will be no reduction in standards. There are no changes to the inspection process and all permit work will continue to be inspected by local government.

The bill also introduces an escalating penalty framework. During consultation on the draft bill industry stakeholders expressed concerns about defective plumbing and drainage work being carried out or supervised by unlicensed or inappropriately licensed persons. What we heard through that consultation process was that the existing penalty of a maximum of 165 penalty units was just not enough to be an effective deterrent. That is why the bill includes reforms that establish a sliding scale of penalties that increase for second and third offences. Under the new provisions, maximum penalty units will now range from 250 penalty units for a first offence to 300 penalty units for a second offence and for a third or later offence, or if the plumbing or drainage work is grossly defective, 350 penalty units or one year's imprisonment. Increasing the penalties for individuals who repeatedly place

Queenslanders at risk by performing either unlicensed or noncompliant plumbing work upholds important public confidence in the safety of the water that comes out of the taps in our kitchens and the plumbing in our bathrooms.

I will now turn to the issue of prohibited WaterMark products. The new act will also ensure the safety and integrity of plumbing products, including those certified under the national WaterMark Scheme, that are installed in places such as our homes, our workplaces—in buildings such as this one—and our local shopping centres. The new laws provide the ability for government to act swiftly to prohibit a WaterMark product, whether it be a kitchen mixer tap or something like a prefabricated bathroom module that is considered defective, not fit for purpose or poses a public health risk. This reform complements the Palaszczuk government's suite of reforms around nonconforming building products, including the laws passed in this parliament in 2017.

I turn now to the important issue of mechanical services and medical gas. We are introducing a mechanical services—including medical gas—occupational licence. No longer in Queensland will an unlicensed individual be able to carry out this critical mechanical service work or work on medical gas systems. It is just too big a risk when one considers that mechanical services systems contribute to the overall health and safety of our community and if poorly installed have the potential to cause significant health and safety issues and even the possibility of death. This has been demonstrated in incidents of serious illness and fatalities linked to cooling towers in air-conditioning systems. Recent incidents include in 2016 in Hyde Park, Sydney, where there were 15 hospitalisations and one death as a result of contraction of legionella; last year in Melbourne's central business district where there were six hospitalisations from legionella; and last year in Adelaide where there were three hospitalisations from legionella.

The new mechanical services occupational licence will regulate mechanical services work in large or public buildings, ones that are used by the broader community such as hospitals, shopping centres, office blocks, residential apartment blocks and in places such as entertainment complexes. It is important to note that it will not cover class 1A buildings—that is, single dwellings, for example, a detached house, a townhouse or a villa—or class 10 buildings, which are things such as non-habitable buildings or structures. For example, it will not cover a garage or shed. Therefore, it will not have an impact on home owners. Importantly, it also excludes the installation of single head split systems, meaning that for people doing this type of work it will continue to be business as usual. The new licence has also been designed to have no impact on our energy and resources industry, nor will it have an impact on other industries such as manufacturing and processing.

We have taken care to ensure that people who are currently performing mechanical services work have the time to complete the qualifications necessary to transition to the new mechanical services licence. We will work closely with industry and trade unions to determine the appropriate technical qualifications that will be recognised and to ensure that there are multiple pathways to the mechanical services occupational licence.

The new mechanical services licence will also address the serious risk posed by noncompliant medical gas installations. Whilst there have been no incidents in Queensland in relation to medical gas, I am sure that members will recall the tragic incidents that occurred in 2016 at a New South Wales hospital, when tragically one infant died and another suffered permanent brain damage as a result of mistakenly being administered nitrous oxide. It was later discovered that the medical gas system had been incorrectly installed. The loss suffered by those families is truly unimaginable and unfathomable.

Penalties will also apply where a person carries out mechanical services work without the appropriate licence. The penalties proposed are consistent with those that apply to unlawful plumbing work under the new Plumbing and Drainage Act and unlawful building work under the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act. Those penalties will also be escalating. They will start at 250 penalty units for the first offence, increasing to 350 penalty units or one year's imprisonment for the third or later offence. All mechanical services work is considered tier 1 defective work.

I will make some remarks about the process of consultation on the bill. Firstly, I acknowledge the commitment and passion shown by many members of the plumbing community over the past three years in relation to this matter. Reviewing an entire suite of laws that are as complex and important as the plumbing laws does not happen overnight and, of course, it cannot be done in isolation. I am very proud of the depth—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! I am sorry, Minister. Can all members please turn off their mobile phones, as amusing as the ringtones may be. Member for Maryborough, perhaps take your phone out of the chamber to sort it out. That would be wonderful.

Mr de BRENNI: There are plenty of working-class men and women in the plumbing trade. That was very apt and I thank the member for Maryborough. I am sure that the member for Maryborough is as proud as I am of the depth and breadth of the consultation undertaken by the government. I will outline what that included.

We embarked upon a line-by-line review of the plumbing laws by key industry stakeholders. Two discussion papers were publicly released and at multiple Queensland road shows industry licensees and the community were invited to have their say. Over 22 separate occasions, representatives from 41 key industry organisations came together to represent their members' interests and provide important technical expertise. I thank all of those who attended one of the many information sessions held throughout Queensland, many of which I had the privilege of providing an address to and benefited from the opportunity to hear the responses from representatives and members of the industry, including contractors, licensees, beneficiaries of the industry and, of course, the building industry itself.

I turn now to address the recommendations of the Transport and Public Works Committee, outlined in its report tabled on 9 April 2018. My sincere thanks go to the members of the Transport and Public Works Committee for their considered review of the bill. In particular, I acknowledge the committee chair and member for Kurwongbah, Mr Shane King, for his leadership of the committee. As ministers always do, I acknowledge the committee secretariat for their continued support of the important work of the committee. My thanks go not only to those industry stakeholders who showed up in their droves to the important industry consultation sessions but also to the many who made detailed and well-considered submissions to the committee inquiry and those who demonstrated just how important these reforms are to public safety in Queensland by attending the committee hearings in significant numbers.

The committee made three recommendations, all of which the government is pleased to accept. The first recommendation is that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support of the bill. In its second recommendation, the committee asked that I consider investigating ways to help ensure the safety of contractors when installing and working with refrigerant fluids and single head split systems. On this recommendation I can advise members of the House and the committee that I have instructed my department to commence further investigation of the concerns raised with the committee regarding the installation of single head split systems and the handling of refrigerant gases. I am sure that will be welcomed by Queensland workers who handle those gases and products. Finally, in recommendation No. 3 the committee recommended that I clarify the use of the acronym MPU in the explanatory notes. I am pleased to do so. The acronym MPU is commonly used to mean 'maximum penalty units'. I confirm for the House that on 9 July 2018, in accordance with standing order 31, I tabled the government response to those recommendations.

I take this opportunity to respond to the statement of reservation submitted by committee members Ted Sorensen MP and Colin Boyce MP. I thank them for their comments. I can confirm that there was support from many local government stakeholders for mandatory monitoring of on-site sewage facilities that are not for testing purposes. Clause 137 of the bill will provide for the regulation to prescribe the types of on-site sewage facilities a local government must monitor in its local government area. I can assure members of the House that the department will continue to consult with relevant industry stakeholders on that particular issue as part of the ongoing review into the associated draft plumbing regulation and codes.

I also note the concerns raised by some industry groups and echoed by those members that the mechanical services licence may allow refrigeration and air-conditioning work to be undertaken by contractors who do not have the appropriate training and therefore placing them at risk. I want to assure members that my department will continue to work with industry stakeholders to ensure that the scopes of work and their associated technical qualifications are appropriate for the classes of mechanical services licence that are established. I anticipate that this work will be the subject of a regulatory impact statement and therefore subject to broad public consultation. I can assure industry that the licence classes for the mechanical services occupational licence will recognise the specialist skills needed to carry out the different streams of mechanical services work.

I have circulated some amendments today. I want to take the opportunity to discuss their importance in today's debate. I intend to move a number of amendments during consideration in detail including amendments outside the long title of the bill which have been circulated in my name earlier today. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss those with members of the opposition and non-government members today.

As currently drafted in the bill, a plumbing permit can only be issued by a local government. However, under the current act a public sector entity can also issue a permit. This has been omitted simply in error in the bill. I will be moving amendments to amend the definition of 'permit' and make the necessary consequential amendments so that public sector entities can continue to issue permits for plumbing or drainage work in government buildings.

In response to feedback from the Housing Industry Association during the committee process, I will move amendments to amend the time permitted for the QBCC Commissioner to consider an application for a licence. The HIA commented that time allowed for the commissioner to make a decision of 40 business days seemed out of balance with that allowed for the subcontractor of 20 business days to respond to request for further information. I agree with the HIA on this point and will move amendments to reduce the time period from 40 business days to 20 business days.

I propose to move a number of amendments to the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017, which was passed in this House last year. A number of these amendments are minor in detail and serve to clarify the initial policy intent and correct some minor errors—for example, the insertion of the word 'trust' in the definitions for 'disputed funds trust account' and 'retention trust account'.

More significant are amendments to section 76 in relation to payment schedules. A key amendment is to section 76 of the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act which sets out the required time frame for providing a payment schedule and response to a payment claim. I am proposing to amend this section so a payment schedule must be provided within 15 business days from receipt of a payment claim. The offence of a maximum 100 penalty units for failing to provide a payment schedule remains. However, no offence is committed if payment in full is made by the due date.

The change of the time frame to 15 business days will allow subcontractors to know what they will be paid sooner and in advance of making the next payment claim. This is all about delivering on our commitment to help ensure that subcontractors are paid on time in full every time. The amendment also serves to address industry concerns that low-value, high-frequency invoices such as those from suppliers should be able to be paid in full by the due date without the need for a payment schedule.

There are a number of proposed amendments to clarify provisions concerning project bank accounts. The first of those is in relation to the head contractor requirement to top up. I will move amendments to clarify that a head contractor must top up a project bank account 'immediately' they become aware of a shortfall. This again will ensure that subcontractor beneficiaries are paid all amounts due by the due date.

On the matter of the capacity of the head contractor to do this, I refer to submissions from licensees to the parliamentary committee inquiry into the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill that referred to the capacity to do this due to large sums of cash held on hand by some builders. Amendments will also clarify that pro rata payment only applies where the head contractor has failed to top up and committed an offence which will be investigated by the Building and Construction Commission for committing an offence under the BIF act.

I will also move amendments to clarify the provisions that a head contractor cannot strip funds out of a project bank account. These funds are protected for the benefit of subcontractors in this state. For example, the head contractor cannot withdraw funds from the retention trust account to pay itself until the end of the defects liability period. The defects liability period is set out in the construction contract or, if not in the contract, the BIF act will establish a 12-month maximum period. These amendments also clarify that amounts must be held in trust in the project bank account whenever the head contractor has a 'liability to pay' a subbie. Liability is established when a payment schedule is given or, if not given, 15 business days after the subcontractor provides the payment claim.

The government listened to the concerns raised by stakeholders in the building industry that the existing definition of 'supplier' was too complicated. I will move amendments to rectify this and make it clear that a supplier is only a supplier for the purpose of a project bank account if it is required to hold a licence under a relevant act. A 'relevant act' is defined to include the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act, the Building Act, the Plumbing and Drainage Act and the Electrical Safety Act.

I will also be moving amendments in consideration in detail to establish transitional provisions. These will ensure that where a subcontractor is owed an amount as a result of a payment dispute under the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004, or BCIPA, the amount will be paid into the project bank account for the benefit of the subcontractor.

Many of the provisions of the transitional regulation, which would otherwise lapse on 1 March 2019, are required beyond that date to ensure the effective operation of the BIF act. To achieve this, provisions of the transitional regulation are being incorporated into the building industry fairness act and the transitional regulation is being repealed. The transitional regulation-making power in the building industry fairness act will also be extended. However, it is important to note that this will have limited application. It will only apply to the acts to be repealed—BCIPA and the Subcontractors' Charges Act.

I propose to move amendments in consideration in detail to the bill to amend part 6AA of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 concerning nonconforming building products. It has always been the intention of our government to include architects and engineers in the chain of responsibility where they specify building products in designing a building. The amendments to part 6AA clarify this intent by including architects and engineers and those who are responsible for the installation of the product in the chain of responsibility.

The industry bodies representing the architects and engineers agree to their inclusion in the chain of responsibility. I also propose an amendment to include a definition for 'install' and 'installer'. This has been included to put beyond doubt that the chain of responsibility was intended to apply to builders and those procuring the services of other contractors or tradespeople to install a building product. This would include not only head contractors but also higher contractors who instruct or provide those physically installing the building product with a list or advice on the products to be installed.

I will be moving amendments in consideration in detail to fulfil, in part, the government's election commitment to correct a legacy issue inherited by the Palaszczuk government from a Liberal National Party failure. The amendment will provide that certain contractor plumbing and drainage licensees who did not hold an occupational licence on or after 10 November 2014 are taken to have held an occupational licence while they held the contractor licence. It is necessary to ensure that contractors who acted in good faith on the LNP's promise that licensees would only need to hold and pay for one licence cannot be prosecuted for acting unlicensed or be subject to disciplinary action for failing to hold an occupational licence.

Unfortunately, this amendment is necessary because the LNP government and the member for Everton, the then minister, failed to back in a commitment to the industry. The member for Everton when minister issued a ministerial release and sent letters—the then commissioner was also asked to back him and send letters—promising plumbers and drainers who also held a contractor licence that they only need to hold and pay for one licence. It was part of their 10-point action plan to reform the regulation of the Queensland building and construction industry. Unfortunately, the then minister forgot point 11, which was to amend the laws to make it legal.


What makes this even more absurd is that the member for Burleigh sat in estimates just a few weeks ago and claimed that they did not have time to fix their blunder because 'it was very late in the term of government'. I want to take a moment to look closely at that. It was 22 May 2014 when the then minister for housing and public works, the member for Everton, issued a media release stating that a plumber would not have to hold or pay for both a contractor and occupational licence. Between 22 May and the end of the 2014 parliament this House sat for over 20 days. On 22 May 2014, the very day the media release went out, the member for Everton introduced a bill into the parliament—the Professional Engineers and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—which passed with amendments on 15 October 2014. The former minister, the member for Everton, moved amendments during consideration in detail but no amendments to deliver on their promise to plumbers.

There is actually more. On 7 August 2014 the member for Everton introduced the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 which was also passed with amendment on 16 October 2014. It passed the very same sitting and again the member for Everton moved amendments in consideration in detail, but yet again no amendments to deliver on their promise to plumbers.

The LNP had ample opportunity to make the necessary amendments. The question is: why did the member for Everton never do it? Was it incompetence? I do not know. Was he misleading the industry with an empty promise? As I have said before in this place, most of us only think about plumbing when something goes wrong and therefore we tend to underestimate the critical role that our plumbing laws play in protecting public health and safety and our environment.

In contrast, this bill is a clear example of the government's commitment to deliver certainty and confidence to the state's building and construction industry. The development of the new Plumbing and Drainage Act has been the subject of extensive consultation and engagement with industry. I thank them for their interest, their expertise and their contribution to this important body of work.

Similarly, the reform to establish a new mechanical services licence is the result of extensive stakeholder engagement and consultation. I thank them again for their commitment to upholding the safety and professionalism of their trade and that of the industry in general. The reforms in this bill and the amendments I will move in consideration in detail have also been the subject of significant consultation with the Palaszczuk government's Ministerial Construction Council. I want to thank all members of the Ministerial Construction Council for their time, their contribution, their continued professionalism and advocacy for a safer, fairer and more sustainable construction industry for Queensland. I commend the bill and the amendments to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (12.51 pm): I can advise the House that the LNP's position is to not oppose the bill. It is apparent that following a lengthy review the need to modernise the language and structure of the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 is required to better reflect industry and community expectations. We know that community engagement was held across the state and continued until today.

I can say coming from a building background as a registered builder that we often underestimate how important the plumbing industry is to the public health and safety of us all and, importantly, the environment. Reviews and legislation that modernise the industry are worthy of scrutiny and review. I can give the House a couple of examples. The minister alluded to medical gas concerns in New South Wales. Locally in Bundaberg there was the contamination of PFAS in our water system—potable water. These are two examples of why this legislation is important.

Following the introduction of this bill the government needs to undertake further consultation to ensure the new plumbing laws are more easily interpreted and readily understood by users. It could be argued as is the case in the industry that the aggressive and inconsistent policy platform particularly of this minister leaves us all concerned with what the end game might look like. With far more reaching transitional arrangements in the legislation, we again have legislation not clear to the industry and are being asked to put our complete faith in the government.

As with many of the laws introduced by the Labor government, stakeholders expressed concerns that the plumbing laws were difficult to interpret, not readily understood by users and sometimes misunderstood. Many of the legislative requirements previously introduced have involved lengthy time frames and added to industry and consumer cost and erosion of confidence. I speak for the small operators who just want the government to get out of the way and to reduce red tape, not create more and more.

Some background on the bigger issues within the plumbing industry which are rectified in the legislation has just been alluded to by the minister. He talked about how the LNP government in 2014 made a decision to move plumbing licence administration to the QBCC and that if a trade contractor licence in plumbing was held there was no requirement to maintain a corresponding occupational licence. There was no longer a requirement to pay renewal fees, and the plumbing industry was notified of these important changes—important changes about our commitment to removing red tape and getting out of the way of small businesses.

Subsequent to the change of government in 2015, it appears that the Plumbing and Drainage Act was never amended to effect that change. We can always apportion blame, which is this government's right to do, but this government has been in place for four years now, and to make assertions that the last six months of the Newman government did not deal with this amendment is somewhat disingenuous. The cost to apply for a new licence is \$335. Anyone in small business knows that any saving you can give to small businesses is welcome. I note that amendments will be moved and that we will not be opposing those amendments.

The bill seeks to deliver a consistent penalty framework. In this regard, penalties for unlicensed plumbing work and for offences that endanger public health and safety have been increased. The bill also amends the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 to establish a new licence to regulate mechanical services—heating and cooling units—and medical gas work in large or public buildings where incorrect installations can have, as we know, fatal consequences.

The bill contains two clauses—157 and 174—to handle transitional arrangements but these are free ranging and potentially open to abuse. I will outline the problems with these clauses when we seek—depending on the minister's response—to oppose clause 174. We seek assurances as this is taking flexibility to a whole new level and we are being asked to trust the minister.

As highlighted in the statement of reservation contained in the Economics and Governance Committee report, the LNP raised the issue of a separate occupational licence for the refrigeration and air-conditioning industry, the suitability of training, safety matters associated with air-conditioning gases

and the need for closer consultation between government and industry. When legislation is handing unprecedented powers to a minister who then commits to consultation with industry at a later date, one can appreciate the concerns that have been raised.

Amendments that are generally supported have been outlined and they are exactly what I raised in the last term of government around the security of payments issue. The amendments today are an example of what happens when we do not listen to all sides of the government and opposition and we do not listen to the industry. Those amendments about the BIF were raised during consideration in detail. Again, I think the industry will look forward to consistency, particularly around fairness of payments and security of payments in the future.

The Plumbing and Drainage Bill was introduced on 15 February 2018 and was referred to the committee for detailed consideration. It reported back on 9 April 2018. The committee made three recommendations. I listened to the minister's response and we welcome those recommendations.

The statement of reservation lodged by the two LNP committee members expressed concerns over the licensing situation as it applies to the refrigeration and air-conditioning industry. We must ensure that everyone is suitably qualified, trained and aware of safety, particularly around air conditioning and gases. The minister's comments in that regard were welcome.

The purpose of the bill is to establish a contemporary, streamlined and flexible legislative framework for plumbing and drainage that is clear and simple for the end user. We know that the industry and community look forward to the further rollout of expectations for community consultation about what the changes will mean. The bill provides authority for the making of a contemporary plumbing regulation that will be easy to use and include improved regulatory requirements for obtaining approvals for plumbing and drainage work. Everyone can accept that is an important step forward and everyone in the industry welcomes the reduced time frames.

The bill provides authority for the making of a plumbing code that will include all plumbing standards required to vary and complement national plumbing standards. The bill will regulate mechanical services work including medical gas work. We heard how devastating getting that wrong can mean.

While acknowledging that an overhaul of the legislative framework to improve and modernise it is a worthy undertaking, we express concern that even after a comprehensive consultation program there still appears to be a level of confusion within sectors of the industry over how things will work under the new arrangements.

In terms of the establishment of a new mechanical services licence, we stress the importance of the government working through the proposed regulation with industry to identify the impacts and ensure the industry is well placed prior to its introduction. We recognise that there is a specialised skill set involved, particularly in medical gas, along with the serious implications of this work.

It is noted that when contemplating the new amendments the LGAQ raised concerns about the need for clarity and flexibility with local authorities, particularly in rural Queensland, in relation to the testing regime for greywater coming out of septic tanks. It was also raised in the statement of reservation. It is noted that the proposed new mechanical service licence was initially based on the Victorian mechanical service licence model. In response to stakeholders' feedback about applying the Victorian model, the mechanical service class was refined although there are still some questions over the proposed approach and implementation.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bennett, adjourned.

MOTION

Order of Business



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.59 pm), without notice: I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 1 to 3 be postponed.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

NAPLAN; Independent Public Schools

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): No issue is more important to my team than the education of Queensland kids. We want our kids to learn the foundation skills they need to get a job and succeed in life. The latest NAPLAN results showed that Queensland kids are continuing to fall behind, particularly when it comes to writing. Queensland, unfortunately, has gone backwards in the last 12 months in terms of years 3, 5, 7 and 9 standards.

We would expect those opposite to take some responsibility and show how the government planned to turn these poor results around. Instead, the education minister blamed the test. Passing the buck simply will not improve our education standards, but meeting the challenge head-on will. That is why the LNP has already announced our plan to improve education and deliver better support for our teachers. I acknowledge the work of the shadow education minister, Jarrod Bleijie.

At the core of the LNP's plan is the expansion of the Independent Public Schools program to ensure our schools are run by local principals, local teachers and, most importantly, local parents. The NAPLAN results show the LNP's Independent Public Schools work. Independent Public Schools do get better results. Independent Public Schools placed high up the rankings across years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Independent Public Schools work because local principals, teachers and parents are all given more control on how they run their schools. There is a lesson to be learnt here.

The LNP wants our kids to be the smartest in the nation, which is why the LNP believes in the Independent Public Schools program and that is why the LNP will continue with the program and expand it. We will get behind it and we will work with the teachers, the parents and the community members who do so much to improve the education of our children. It is disappointing that the Teachers' Union wants this program scrapped. The union wants the program scrapped because Independent Public Schools are run by parents, teachers and principals and not a head office based right here in central Brisbane.

Mr Costigan: They don't like it.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection—because they do not like it. Where is Labor's secret report into Independent Public Schools? That is right. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, it is secret and hidden. That is exactly where the report into Independent Public Schools is—under lock and key, in some black hole in the Palaszczuk government. If it ever does see the light of day, it will be blacked out. They would have got the pen and they would have run it through—

Mr Janetzki: They love redactions.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, redactions. They will be taking it right through, because anything positive—and there will be positives in the report into Independent Public Schools—will be wiped out because the Labor government do not want to show it to the parents, teachers and community members who work so hard to deliver good education for their children in those communities. The Labor government refuse to see what is in front of them—that is, a program that works. Why do they want to get rid of it? Because it was an LNP program; that is why.

Mr McArdle: And it worked.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, it worked. I will take that interjection from the member for Caloundra. This is a program that worked and that is why the LNP is going to get behind it and continue it. It is coming up to four weeks now since the education minister said she would release the report on Independent Public Schools after she had been briefed.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! Members, please cease the conversation across the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The noise that we are hearing from those opposite is because they know that the Independent Public Schools is a good thing and they know that the Labor education minister was briefed on this four weeks ago. The education minister said four weeks ago that she would release the Independent Public Schools review after she had been briefed.

An opposition member: Now she has gone to ground.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Where is the education minister in relation to this? I take that interjection: she has gone to ground because the education minister knows that this is an LNP program that works.

If the education minister, the Premier and those opposite have nothing to hide in relation to this report, why is it locked up under lock and key? If they have nothing to hide, they should release the report today. I call on the Premier or the Deputy Premier or the Teachers' Union or the education minister, or whoever it is who is running the show over there today, to release the report because it is obvious that the education minister, the Premier and the Deputy Premier failed the test when it comes to transparency. They have failed that test. The delay in releasing this review is just another example. There is no greater example than the cover-ups, secrecy and protection rackets under the Labor government. That is except for the estimates, because estimates was the No. 1 protection racket.

I would like to outline some of the practical measures in the LNP's plan to support Queensland teachers and improve student outcomes. We want to declutter the curriculum and we need to get back to basics. We want a stronger focus on the core principles of reading, writing and numeracy. As a mum of three daughters, I know it makes sense. That is what the teachers want; they want the system decluttered. The parents want the kids to get back to the basics. I want my daughters to be a part of the smartest kids in the nation. Under this Labor government, what chance do they have? We need to encourage our children to have a greater focus on the skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

Unlike the Labor Party, we have members who understand the bush. We understand how hot it gets in some of these schools, and that is why the LNP have a plan to air-condition each and every state school classroom across Queensland. We want our children to learn in comfortable places and we want our teachers to teach in comfortable environments because we know that cool kids are smart kids.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take the interjection from the shadow education minister. Those ministers opposite would never give up their air-conditioned offices, so why do they expect—

Honourable members interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order, members. There is far too much conversation and noise. I am struggling to hear the Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Those opposite are so out of touch with what parents, community members and teachers are saying about our schools. They simply do not get it.

Most importantly, the LNP has also announced that English will be a mandatory subject under the new ATAR system. I have a daughter who is in year 10 and is choosing her subjects. I can tell honourable members that she will be doing English. If we want our Queensland kids to be the smartest in the nation we need to teach them English and we need to give them the best start in life. Whether they want to go into the sciences or the languages at universities or whether they want to do humanities, they need English. That is common sense. That is what the teachers tell us, that is what the community members tell us and, most importantly, that is what the parents of Queensland tell us. Under the LNP we will bring back the best education system in Australia.

(Time expired)

Early Childhood Education

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.10 pm): I spoke in this House during my first speech about my passion for fairness, equality and social justice. I, like many of my colleagues on this side of the chamber, believe that education is one of the most powerful tools to remove inequality. A child's destiny should not be dependent on their parents' income, their postcode or their background. I am incredibly proud to be a member of a Palaszczuk government that believes that every child should have access to quality education.

We know that the early years are critical when it comes to brain development, which is why we are making a \$270 million investment in early education and care. This includes universal access to high-quality kindergarten for all Queensland children in the year before school. There is almost no end to the research that proves that children who participate in quality kindergarten programs will go on to have improved school results and better health and employment prospects. Our investment is working with over 95 per cent of Queensland children enrolled in a kindergarten program in the year before school as at 2017 in comparison with only 29 per cent of children in 2009. This increase is truly one of the great public policy success stories of the past decade. It has happened because of the foresight and courage of a federal Labor government supported by a Queensland Labor government that in 2009 struck the first national partnership agreement with the states and territories to provide universal funding for kindergarten of 15 hours per week.

To continue to improve these results, we need the current federal government to step up and fulfil its responsibilities and provide long-term funding certainty for the early childhood sector. This was the No. 1 recommendation of *Lifting our game*, released earlier this year as a blueprint for early childhood policy. At the moment the situation with the funding uncertainty means that a family with a child who is one or two does not have any guarantee of access to universal funding for kindergarten due to funding expiring next year. For some Gold Coast children, this 15 hours of kindy each week is the only time their family can afford.


As the member for Macalister pointed out during the last parliamentary sitting week, long day care rates are often over \$85 or \$100. Even with childcare subsidies, this is often out of the reach of families doing it tough in electorates like mine. Having worked in the outside school hours sector, I have seen multiple cohorts of new prep students come through. What was always clear was the difference between kids who had exposure to the social, emotional and behavioural benefits of kindy or preprep readiness programs compared to those who did not. My concern is that a loss of 15 hours a week will disproportionately affect those families for whom this time represents their only access to formalised kindy programs. With the removal of this access, we are placing further barriers in front of some of our little ones who do not deserve to be left behind. This is no way to run a sector that is so critical for our future.

The federal LNP government needs to put an end to the circus in Canberra and get on with the job. People cannot operate early childhood services year to year. The sector cannot plan ahead and retain qualified and experienced staff without funding certainty. Despite some federal politicians believing that early childhood educators are merely child minders wiping noses all day, I know how influential their role is in a child's life and how much work they do planning, challenging, nurturing and educating our future leaders.

Tracey Bell is a Pacific Pines resident and director of an early childhood centre on the Gold Coast. At 32 she made the decision to enter the industry for what she thought would be a career in which she would be regarded as a professional, respected for the work that she did and able to make a difference in the lives of children. She attained a diploma and advanced diploma in child care and worked her way through the ranks from assistant to group leader and then to centre director, a position she has held for 13 years. However, the poor award rates have affected Tracey's life. As a single mother of two, she has never been able to break into the housing market.

Early childhood educators are some of the lowest paid professionals in the country, with some being paid only \$22 an hour—almost half of the national average wage. Tracey and many childhood educators from across the country will be walking off the job tomorrow for a better deal and to be paid fairly for the important work they do. Whilst I cannot be with them tomorrow, I stand here in solidarity with their fight. It is time that our country and the federal government value the early education and care sector and the educators within it.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.15 pm): We have heard this time and time again: the Gold Coast is coming of age. I am always proud to see such optimism in our city, especially in the lead-up to and during the Commonwealth Games. However, five months after the games, Gold Coasters are left wondering what now? Are we getting a Supreme Court? No. A cruise ship terminal? No, because Brisbane has one. More police resources? No. A new site for the Gold Coast show, greyhounds and harness racing? No. That made me think what has happened post games in other host cities and what can the Gold Coast learn from these cities to maximise the benefit of the games for years to come? I have looked into host cities of major events, whether it is post-games legacies that could have been managed better, like the Sydney Olympics, or games legacies that are considered to be best practice, like Manchester, Glasgow and Barcelona. Today, I am going to talk about three aspects of the games and games legacy that could have been improved: post-games infrastructure projects, ticketing strategy and traffic management.

The 1992 Barcelona Olympics is touted as a successful model for urban revitalisation and city rebranding. Whilst the Gold Coast is no Barcelona, there are lessons that can be taken from their pre- and post-games investments in infrastructure. Between 1989 and 1992 the number of roads increased by 15 per cent, however, Barcelona did not stop there. According to a 2013 city of Gold Coast report, the successful regeneration of Barcelona as a result of the games was 'buoyed by two additional phases of development post games' and created 'continued legacy momentum'.

Prior to the Olympics, Barcelona invested in the construction of ring-roads which, according to PWC—PricewaterhouseCoopers—'eased long-term traffic congestion', as well as other infrastructure projects, which the same *Game on: Mega-event infrastructure opportunities* report said benefited 'the residents and businesses of Barcelona over the long term'. A post-games overview of the economic legacy of the games in Barcelona identifies the 'upgrade of infrastructure in designated areas' as a key post-games legacy project. Yet, we still cannot get a second M1 or a cruise ship terminal.

Glasgow, which hosted the 2014 Commonwealth Games, has a long-term legacy program that focused on the city's young people. Their comprehensive report outlines their legacy program for which the groundwork was laid years before the games. The report states that more than 50 national legacy projects and 80 supporting legacy projects were under way. Most notably, the Game on Scotland program and Lead 2014 program encouraged students to be involved in and inspired by the Glasgow games. Game on Scotland is a program that I note was loosely replicated in Queensland schools by offering a range of activities and celebrations within our schools. Managed in partnership with sportscotland, Youth Sport Trust and Glasgow 2014, the Lead 2014 program is one that is particularly interesting. It was a four-year program which aimed to foster leadership skills. As part of the program, the report states—

Youth Legacy Ambassadors (YLAs) were recruited across Scotland by Young Scot to champion Games legacy activity in their local community and to encourage other young people to get involved. The programme provided the YLAs with relevant training, equipping them with media and public-speaking skills.

Three schemes ensured that additional tickets were available for groups throughout the city: 5,000 games tickets were offered to disadvantaged young people in Scotland; and 6,000 tickets to sporting events and the ceremonies were offered to 'inspirational young people' and older people supported by council. Tickets were also offered to sporting groups, organisations and individuals. A total of 5,000 tickets was offered to people involved in the Legacy 2014 program. The report boasts a '40,000 capacity crowd for the opening ceremony' and a 'packed Hampden Park for the closing ceremony'. According to the games' website, the Carrara stadium is a 35,000-seat stadium. It is disappointing that Labor was too lazy to manage stakeholder expectations and create ways to deliver a legacy whilst filling a stadium like Glasgow did. Instead, they followed the widely criticised London model. I table an article titled 'London 2012 Olympics: 'fiasco' of the 12,000 empty seats'. It states—

Lord Coe, the chairman of London 2012, was accused of breaking a promise that unsold and unused corporate tickets would be given to the public ...

Athletes who had been unable to get tickets for their families to watch them compete said it was "absurd" and "ridiculous" that whole blocks of seats remained empty at some venues.

Tabled paper: Article from the Telegraph.co.uk, dated 29 July 2012, titled 'London 2012 Olympics: "fiasco" of the 1200 empty seats' [[1277](#)].

I table an article titled 'Empty capital tells the world: we're still open for business'.

Tabled paper: Article from the Independent.co.uk, dated 1 August 2012, titled 'Empty capital tells the world: we're still open for business' [[1278](#)].


I also table an article which states—

The message to stay away from London during the Olympic Games has worked "too well", with businesses suffering as a result, it has been claimed. There are fears the host city has been turned into a "ghost town", with visitors flocking to Olympic venues but avoiding traditional tourist hotspots in the centre.

Tabled paper: Article from the Telegraph.co.uk, undated, titled 'London 2012 Olympics: has the West End become a ghost town?' [[1279](#)].

Does that sound familiar? That is right: organisers of the London 2012 Olympics implemented a scare campaign that resulted in local businesses losing out, yet that is exactly what happened here when Minister Kate Jones released a plan to cut cars. They did not learn. They still refuse to do a post games tour and post-mortem to listen to local businesses who continue to suffer. There is so much to be proud of on the Gold Coast, but there is more work to be done to ensure the Commonwealth Games legacy is a positive one for locals and small businesses.

Project Red Socks

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.20 pm): Early today a Project Red Socks kit was delivered to each member in the chamber, and here they are. If you do not have your set, come and see me.

Mr McArdle: They are good socks!

Mr STEWART: They are good socks! The kit contains a red socks badge, an information flyer and a pair of bright red socks. I am proud to say that these kits have been sponsored by the member for Caloundra and myself in recognition of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. It is no coincidence that Prostate Cancer Awareness Month usually kicks off with Father's Day, and happy Father's Day to all dads for Sunday.


The kit is an initiative of the Rotary Club of Townsville Sunrise and is designed to serve as a reminder to all mature males to have an annual prostate check. It is not a fundraiser; it is merely an awareness program. Last year I distributed these kits in the chamber and we took a photo on the great staircase in this House. That photo and my speech were published in Rotary Australia's monthly magazine, and I received widespread support for the program. The photo also featured at the Rotary International conference in Canada, where the challenge went out to all Canadian politicians to show their support for prostate cancer awareness by wearing a pair of red socks as well.

The sad thing is that since that photo was taken more than 3,500 Australian men have lost their battle with prostate cancer. The early detection of prostate cancer can be as simple as having a blood test to check your PSA levels. With no medical qualifications behind me, I urge all males to talk to their GP to determine the best method for prostate cancer testing. It is time to 'man up'. If you were in the chamber last year when I distributed the kits and you or your partner have not since had your PSA levels checked, then why not? You have a responsibility to yourself and, more importantly, you have a responsibility to your family.

The risk of prostate cancer increases markedly for males over the age of 50. More men die of prostate cancer than women die of breast cancer, but the most sobering statistic is that one in seven Australian males will get prostate cancer. Using the same statistics, nine members in this House will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Members, look around the chamber right now and count your nine. You are now looking at someone who will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. That also means, Mr Deputy Speaker and member for Currumbin, that four of the women members in this chamber will have their male partners diagnosed with prostate cancer. You might be lucky and it may not be your partner, but it could be your father, your uncle, your brother, your son or your son-in-law.

Early detection is the key. In 1984, the five-year relative survival rate for prostate cancer was 58.5 per cent. In 2014, through early detection and intervention, that rate had risen to 95 per cent. There are key risk factors that increase the likelihood of prostate cancer: genetics, diet and eating too much processed meat or foods high in fat, and lifestyle. By distributing these kits today I hope to encourage all members to wear their red socks lapel badge and red socks in the chamber tomorrow to show your awareness of prostate cancer and the importance of annual testing. If you are a little too shy to wear these socks, keep them front and centre in your sock drawer to remind you or your partner to get tested every year. I encourage every mature male to wear their red socks and to do an annual test with their GP.

National Child Protection Week

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.25 pm): This week is National Child Protection Week. It is a week where all Queenslanders and all Australians are given a chance to come together for the safety of our children. National Child Protection Week is also an opportunity for government, business and communities to come together to promote the safety and wellbeing of children. Friday this week is also White Balloon Day—a day to unite communities in making a commitment to protect our children from sexual assault. With these hugely important occasions approaching, I encourage all Queenslanders to do their part by promoting child safety in Queensland and Australia.


Sadly, substantiated cases of children being harmed or at risk of harm are once again on the rise in Queensland. According to the latest statistics on child safety, 5,799 children were subjected to substantiation over the last year, which is an increase of 148 children on the year before. In regional terms this has meant an increase of 5.4 per cent in Far North Queensland; an increase of eight per cent in Central Queensland; an increase of eight per cent in South-West Queensland; and an increase of 13.5 per cent in South-East Queensland. In the same period there were 318 substantiated cases of children subject to sexual harm, which is an increase of 12 cases from the same time the year before. Although Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up less than five per cent of Queensland's population, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children currently make up around 37 per cent of children subject to substantiated cases of harm and unacceptable risk of harm.

Much more needs to be done to keep Queensland kids safe. Unfortunately, Queensland's most vulnerable are being let down. National Child Protection Week is a chance to address things that are too often hidden away, such as the impacts of domestic and family violence. Domestic and family violence is an issue that not only impacts partners and spouses but it can also directly and indirectly impact Queensland's children. It is therefore disturbing to hear that perpetrators of domestic violence who work in the Queensland Public Service are able to gain access to taxpayer funded domestic and family violence leave. Worse still, these perpetrators do not even have to prove they have received counselling to stop them from committing future violence. Granting paid leave without any accountability to perpetrators of domestic and family violence not only sends the wrong message to others who might commit violence but it also continues to put Queensland children at risk.

More needs to be done to address child safety in Queensland, and it can start right now if this government is willing to act. During budget estimates the minister did two notable things: firstly, the minister released a 16-month-old report by the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee. We all remember that was at West Cairns and Aurukun, the Smallbone report. Secondly, the minister announced \$12 million to combat sexual violence in a manner that objectively lacked any detail of where the money would be spent. I could go on for some time about both of these being shameful tactics and convenient political timing, but this week is about government's inactions and failings. National Child Protection Week should be a call to action, and I am adding my voice to this call.

This week I call on the Palaszczuk Labor government to stop delaying and finally take action on fixing the child safety crisis. I am calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to take action on a report that is now 17 months old. I am calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to take action on the 40 different reports that have been tabled over the last decade. I am calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to take action by allocating the \$12 million it announced to combat sexual violence. I am calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to review how and why domestic violence leave is granted to those Queensland public servants who are perpetrators of domestic violence. It is National Child Protection Week, and a lot more needs to be done to keep our children safe. The call from this side of the House to the Palaszczuk Labor government is to get on the job.

Greenslopes Electorate, Public Transport

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.29 pm): Malcolm Turnbull may have been jettisoned by his own party and jetted off to New York city, and Mr Scott Morrison—or 'ScoMo' as he likes to be called—might be out there peddling the line that we are all friends now and sitting around singing *Kum ba yah* and saying, 'Nothing to see here,' but the front page of Monday's *Courier-Mail* put it all out there for everyone to see. The dysfunction continues.

On behalf of the people of the Greenslopes electorate, I would like to thank whoever it was who leaked the infrastructure plans personally approved by the former prime minister. Did he approve those projects because they were good for Queensland? Did he approve them based on expert advice? Was there a panel of people who said, 'This is what we should do'? Did he approve them after serious lobbying by the Leader of the Opposition in Queensland? No, absolutely not. He approved them because he wanted to sandbag seats in Queensland. He approved them based on the internal needs of the federal LNP. Of course, he intended to give a lot more money to other states. No doubt the cheer squad opposite would have had sore hands from applauding that.

I want to take a few moments to speak about public transport initiatives in my electorate, particularly those funded in this year's budget: the Eastern Transitway and the upgrade of the electronic ticketing system. These projects are important. They add to other projects and initiatives such as Fairer Fares and the Veloway extension. All will result in people getting home faster and safer. All will result in savings to my constituents. When we save people time and money, we improve their quality of life. That is why we do these things. The Palaszczuk government cares about people. We want people to have time to spend with their families, time to volunteer at their local P&Cs and sporting groups, time to get some exercise, time to build community. People in my electorate tell me how valuable their time is and how much they appreciate our efforts to improve public transport.

In this year's budget we funded the first stage of the Eastern Transitway to the tune of \$1.8 million, out of a more than \$20 million project. The member for Chatsworth jumped in the local media saying that we were short-changing the people of Greenslopes. I am no project manager, but let's go through some of the basics of how this works. When you are starting a project, particularly one that is worth over \$20 million, you start by developing a plan. That process is going to be expensive and extensive. If the opposition spokesperson on transport and main roads does not understand that you start projects with a planning phase, then perhaps we can see why he will have a long future as

the opposition spokesperson. I know that the member would not really understand this, because he was part of the Newman government, and it really did not do infrastructure—just one nice, big building for themselves but certainly nothing in the public transport infrastructure space.

Mr de Brenni: They don't like transport projects.


Mr KELLY: That is right. The Eastern Transitway project will get people home faster. I was pleased to see in the budget funding allocated for the development of the next phase of the electronic ticketing system. I know that people in my electorate will be thrilled to see improvements in this area. As with the Fairer Fares initiative, we will see more people using public transport. In fact, I was discussing this just yesterday with the minister and he proudly told me that public transport usage is up by five per cent for the January-March quarter. That is a significant increase. He was rightly proud of that.

I have spoken before about the Veloway. I am still waiting for the member for Condamine to come on that ride with me. This project demonstrates the commitment of the Palaszczuk government to active transport. It is a major piece of infrastructure that will get more people on to bikes. Why? It is because they get home faster and they get home safer.

I could not continue this speech without talking about Cross River Rail, a project that will transform our state. It is sad to see that those opposite do not understand this project. They are certainly not down in Canberra advocating to the new Prime Minister to get this project funded. No doubt they will be content to sit back and let him work out which projects he will fund based on the internal needs of the federal LNP.

People in the electorate of Greenslopes support Cross River Rail. They understand that it will get people home faster, will be good for the environment and will create jobs. I am proud to be part of a government that is investing in public and active transport. People in my electorate understand why this is important. They know that this investment will improve quality of life for millions of Queenslanders right across this state. That is why they support the Palaszczuk government and public and active transport.

Sugar Industry

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.34 pm): I rise to make this place aware of the hardships being experienced by the sugar industry at the moment. Most farmers are in a situation where the costs to plant, fertilise and harvest are more than the amount they are getting for their raw sugarcane product. With the rise in the cost of production, most farmers are asking themselves how much longer this can go on. We are seeing property rates rising, the cost of fuel climbing and insurance and electricity bills breaking the budget. We are hearing from the government that we are seeing some of the lowest prices in wholesale electricity—that is great; and it is also great to hear that it is coming from clean energy—but why are North Queenslanders not seeing this translate into lower power bills? Who is making the money here?

Currently the most immediate challenge growers are facing is the world sugar price, which is around \$370 per tonne for raw sugar. India and Pakistan have been dumping sugar on the world market. Similar things have also been happening with chickpeas in Australia. Queensland and the federal government should be doing more to respond to the actions of the Indian and Pakistani producers who are flooding the market with sugar, undermining the world market and ruining the world price for our producers. In the past seven years Pakistan has allocated 30 per cent more land to sugar production. It is currently dumping 350,000 tonnes per year onto the world market, with a stockpile of one million tonnes.

We have levers that we can pull with our trade partners, and we should be pulling those levers to protect our key local economies. The KAP wants to see the government take up the fight with our trade partners and show them that Australia will not be pushed around. Similarly, the government should stop being submissive to big corporate interests. We have let offshore corporations walk all over our industry and have been responsible for bending the rules in their favour. Government needs to acknowledge the clear power imbalance between grower and miller. Our sugar industry and regional communities in Queensland expect it.

The KAP has had some great achievements in the sugar industry over the past couple of years. In May 2015 KAP introduced and passed the Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Act. This important reform was the first step in restoring the appropriate balance between growers,

millers and marketers. It is important to recognise the importance of this reform to the industry. In December 2015 Queensland passed laws to introduce an ethanol mandate. This was due to the KAP's ability to force the laws through parliament under a minority government.

In February 2017 the KAP worked with the LNP to make further amendments to support growers through the Sugar Industry (Arbitration for Mill Owners and Sugar Marketing Entities) Amendment Bill. This reform would have given growers more power to negotiate with millers and marketers. Unfortunately, this was blocked by Labor. In 2018 we made a submission to the federal review for the sugar marketing code of conduct. The sugar marketing code of conduct is up for review again. Tomorrow the review panel will be in my home town of Ingham to listen to submissions. I will not be there, so I will read into the record the submission I will be making. It states—

I wish to make a submission to the Sugar Code of Conduct Review in support of growers in the electorate of Hinchinbrook, encompassing the Herbert River District.

The sugar industry is the largest employer in the District, generating hundreds of direct jobs and is worth approximately \$280 million in export value to the area. The District now produces more than five million tonnes of cane, which in turn is capable of producing 700,000 tonnes of sugar annually during a normal season.

As such, it is critical there are good working relationships between growers, millers and marketers that ensures a fair and equitable financial arrangement for all.

The Sugar Code of Conduct not only 'regulates the conduct of growers, mill owners and marketers in relation to contracts or agreements for the supply of cane or the on supply of sugar', but also seeks to 'ensure that supply contracts between growers and mill owners guarantee a grower's choice ...

Discussions between my office and representatives from industry bodies Canegrowers Herbert River and the Australian Sugar Cane Farmers Association indicate there is a strong desire to retain the existing Code of Conduct, which was only introduced in April 2017.

Retaining the Code of Conduct would give it more time to stabilise the industry and ensure a level playing field for all growers, millers and marketers to operate in.

Armistice Centenary Public Art Project



Ms HOWARD (Ipswich—ALP) (2.39 pm): Today I rise to speak about the Palaszczuk government's commitment to honouring the centenary of the Armistice and our work recognising the sacrifice our Queensland Anzac soldiers made in the First World War. Queensland's centenary of the Armistice program aims to engage all Queenslanders in this historic milestone to ensure our Anzac legacy lives on. One of the projects being done as part of the Armistice centenary is a public art installation marking the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice agreement. The public art installation will see Queenslanders from all over the state create at least 57,705 poppies to reflect the same number of Queensland soldiers who enlisted in the First World War. These handmade poppies will be placed inside eight acrylic letters which spell 'remember' and will stand at three metres high and 16 metres in length.

In my electorate in Ipswich I had the great pleasure of attending a poppy-making workshop at Blair State School and watched year 6 students make well over 1,000 poppies. They were incredibly dextrous. The workshop gave the students a great opportunity to learn about the history of the First World War and the Armistice and taught them about the symbolism of the poppy flower and why we wear it on 11 November every year. The workshop also gave students a sense that they were part of history and were part of something bigger than themselves. I want to take a moment to thank Blair State School and especially art teacher Megan Gaynor for organising the poppy-making workshop and for taking the time to engage the students in this important project. It means that Blair State School students can now see their own poppies in the installation travelling across Queensland commemorating the Armistice centenary.

From 6 October through to 11 November the Armistice centenary art installation will be on public display in Townsville, Mackay, Longreach, Bundaberg and South Bank. The workshops have had a strong community response, with a number of poppy-making workshops held at geographically diverse locations across Queensland such as Winton, Maryborough, Noosa, Mackay, Mount Isa, Yeppoon, Birdsville, Cairns, the Ekka—where over 11,000 poppies were made—and here in parliament, where we held a poppy-making workshop today. Over the next few weeks we will have more workshops in Charleville, Currumbin, Townsville and of course Toowoomba's Carnival of Flowers.

The response to the poppy making has been phenomenal and to date around 40,000 poppies have been returned. The Armistice centenary art installation shows that this is truly a piece of public art in every sense of the word involving the participation of ordinary Queenslanders across the state. This


project would not be possible without them and I want to take a moment to thank the many Queenslanders who have contributed to this project to honour those Queenslanders who enlisted in the First World War. This is just one part of our government's proud commitment to honouring the Anzac legacy in Queensland.

We have restored the Shine of Remembrance, eternal flame and undercroft areas and have undertaken waterproofing, curation of memorials and plaques while improving access to Anzac Square. A new permanent Anzac Legacy Gallery and exhibition at Queensland Museum is being created to explore the impact of the First World War on Queensland and it will also provide a home for the First World War tank *Mephisto*, which will be a centrepiece of the gallery. Our Q Anzac 100 program brings our Anzac history to life with a range of events including exhibitions and educational programs.

As assistant minister for veterans' affairs, I wholly support the positive contribution our Premier and our Labor government are making to recognise the valued service of our veterans, past and present. We have made good on our election commitments such as establishing Oasis Townsville, a one-stop shop for welfare, support and employment transition services for ex-ADF personnel. We have also given DVA white card holders a 50 per cent discount on public transport across Queensland which means that an extra 19,000 veterans now have access to cheaper public transport. We have established a \$1.5 million grant program, delivered over three years, for veterans' groups and other organisations to provide support services for veterans and for the creation and upkeep of our monuments, memorials and other public sites.

We are committed to providing veterans with new employment opportunities, and in July this year the Public Service Commission launched a program to identify at least 100 public sector job opportunities for suitable ex-ADF personnel and veterans. I commend our Premier and minister for veterans' affairs on working to ensure the Queensland Labor government continues to engage with our veterans to support their needs and recognise their service. I am proud to be a part of a government committed to commemorating and preserving the Anzac legacy for future generations to come.

Gold Coast Light Rail

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.44 pm): I rise to highlight the importance of the community consultation currently in progress on stage 3 of the light rail project which is proposed to run down the Gold Coast Highway through my electorate from Pacific Fair at Broadbeach through Nobby Beach and Miami to stop at Burleigh. I was very concerned to learn in briefings from departmental officers that the next stage through Palm Beach would be very difficult to achieve and no planning had been done at all to take the light rail all the way to the airport. The question has to be asked: why go to Burleigh if it cannot go through to the airport? There will be enormous economic and business disruption should 3A proceed, as was the case with Surfers Paradise and Southport where some businesses went broke and others had to leave town. The definitive outcome and benefit must be identified before we proceed. It cannot be the case of a shiny new bauble for Gold Coast natives to further the political popularity of vested interests in the planning process.

The business case identifying passenger numbers, traffic reduction and job generation, both short term and long term, should be available for all to see before 3A is inflicted on substantially unsuspecting residents. Residents should also be aware that massively increased high-rise densities right along the adjacent coastal strip will be the outcome of light rail 3A going ahead—as it has already done to the southern end of Broadbeach, captured by the Gold Coast City Council planning scheme and endorsed by the Palaszczuk Labor government, where high-rise limits are greatly extended to underpin the usage of the light rail.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr STEVENS: One does not have to be a mathematical genius, member for Logan, to work out that the more people who are jammed in along the light rail route means the more people who will use it which in turn means less cost to the state government that has to subsidise the private sector operator who runs the light rail under a government backed guaranteed scheme of return on the private equity funds invested. That raises the obvious question: are we putting in the light rail to solve our currently increasing traffic congestion or is the light rail going to create more traffic congestion by the associated high-rise development, 93 per cent of whom, by the department of transport's own figures, will use a car as their form of transport?

I have seen Miami in Florida where the wall-to-wall high-rises along the beachfront make for impossible traffic jams along the main highway. The Gold Coast being a lineal north-south city, with only three major north-south connections, is headed for major gridlock in years to come if we keep


adding population in high-rises along the light rail route. I find it incredibly perplexing that we will be cancelling the now well-used public transport medium of buses to make people get off buses and get on the light rail. For a public transport trip from Broadbeach to the airport and vice versa, you have to catch the bus from Coolangatta to Burleigh, get off the bus with your bags and jump on the light rail. What is wrong with a bus trip straight along the highway from Coolangatta to Broadbeach?

In fact, Brisbane City Council allocates around \$120 million a year to its successful bus public transport, yet Gold Coast City Council puts nothing towards our bus system in the city. Where is the logic in that? It is easy for people to welcome the shiny new bauble of a light rail trip to Burleigh to sample Burleigh's fabulous restaurants, perhaps have a tippie or two more than they would if they had to drive and to find regularity, comfort and ease of boarding the light rail a believable reason for abandoning the current form of public transport, which provides the bus companies with one of their most regularly used transportation links.

However, I warn residents of Broadbeach, Mermaid Beach, Nobby Beach and North Burleigh in my electorate: be prepared for a high-rise coming next to you. The final say on whether the light rail should proceed or not, particularly if it is not going through to the airport, should be given, by a referendum, to all residents living in the area affected by the light rail and who are expected to be the people who will benefit by the arrival of light rail to their suburb. The referendum should be inclusive of all residents on the rolls in those areas and should take place immediately before the project is set in stone. Only that way will we receive a definitive view on whether light rail 3A should proceed because it will change the amenity of those suburbs forever.

(Time expired)

Amrun Bauxite Project

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.49 pm): While the federal LNP government was trying to work out who was going to be their next Prime Minister, or work out who was staying or resigning from the Liberal National Party in Canberra, the Palaszczuk government in Queensland was getting on with the job of delivering for Queenslanders. We are keeping our promise to put Queenslanders first. We know that Queenslanders need strong, stable government. That is why the Palaszczuk government is out there working hard for the people of Queensland and getting results.

On 28 August, the Premier and I visited Rio Tinto's world-class Amrun bauxite project on Cape York Peninsula. The project is about 40 kilometres south of Rio Tinto's existing East Weipa and Andoom mines on Cape York Peninsula in Far North Queensland and involves the construction of a bauxite mine, processing and port facilities.

The Amrun bauxite project is 90 per cent near completion and it was promising to hear about the investment pouring back into the Queensland economy. That means stable jobs for Queenslanders and stable jobs for locals in the Cook electorate. The Amrun bauxite project is worth \$2.6 billion. As the Premier and I learned, Rio Tinto has spent \$2.6 billion with Australian companies, two-thirds of which has been with local Queensland businesses, including \$244 million invested with local Cape York companies. That means jobs and investment for local businesses in my community.

Under Rio Tinto, the mining sector is the largest industry in the Cook electorate. As I have said before, the Cook electorate is not a typical electorate. Owing to the geographical vastness of the region, employment opportunities are more limited in the Cook electorate than they are in other parts of the state. As the member for Cook, I want to see strong, growing industries in my electorate that will support and sustain long-term employment for people throughout the region.


Already with the establishment of this \$2.6 billion project there are more than 1,200 people now working on the site, including 900 Queenslanders, representing 75 per cent of the workforce. One hundred and seventy-eight of those people are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, including 67 local Aboriginal people. This project is clearly a significant boost for the region, as it guarantees jobs not only now but also for decades into the future.

Lastly, I would like to speak of Rio Tinto's great initiative to work in collaboration and partnership with the Wik Waya traditional owners on Cape York. As the Premier said this morning, I, too, would like to pay tribute to Uncle Tony, a traditional owner of the Wik Waya people, for his warm welcome to the Premier and me to his country. As the member for Cook, I felt very honoured to visit this project that will bring huge economic benefit to the region and, in doing so, being culturally welcomed to this country.

It was also reassuring to learn that the business partners with the traditional owners on activities such as working alongside local communities to ensure supportive working environments that promote cross-cultural understanding, cultural camps on country, welcome to country ceremonies for employees, and mine blocks being named in traditional language. It is vitally important to acknowledge and work in partnership with traditional owners who have cared for the land for many thousands of years. In this place, people talk a lot about reconciliation. This is what reconciliation really means: working in collaboration and respect with the traditional owners who have cared for this country for many thousands of years and whom I am sure will continue to do so for thousands of years to come.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 23 August (see p. 2130).

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.53 pm): I rise to speak on the address-in-reply and, in so doing, I wish to pass on my congratulations to the Speaker of this House and commend him for his professionalism and his excellent performance in the role so far. I would also like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are standing and the traditional owners of the land in my electorate, the people of the Jagera language group.

I am deeply honoured to be re-elected to represent the state seat of Ipswich in the 2017 state election and to be standing here today as a member of the 56th Parliament of Queensland making my second address-in-reply speech to the Queensland parliament. Before being elected the member for Ipswich for the first time in 2015, I worked for a federal politician and, before that, for state politicians. I loved working in those roles but confess that, during the vast majority of that time, I harboured no ambition to be a politician. In working so closely with politicians, I saw firsthand the long hours, the public scrutiny, the incessant and often completely unwarranted criticism—let us face it, politicians are among the most disliked and maligned individuals in society—and I questioned why would anyone want to be a politician.

From 2012 to 2014, during the Newman state government, I saw what happened to my community. I saw the cuts to social services such as our beloved tenancy advocacy service, IRASI, our sexual health clinics, our legal services and, of course, to the Public Service. I saw the axing of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which was playing such a pivotal role in Ipswich in getting people, particularly young people, back into the workforce.

People often say that there is no difference between the two major parties. During those years, what happened in Queensland, which was particularly felt in communities such as Ipswich, shows that the difference between Labor and the LNP is stark. It was that stark difference and the lived reality for so many as a result that prompted me to run in the first instance for the seat in 2015 and it is that same stark difference that I believe was responsible for me being re-elected late last year for a second term.

I have never had a moment's regret at my decision to run. Being a staff member for politicians did not show me what an absolute honour and privilege it is to represent your community in the parliament. That may sound trite, but it is completely true. For every individual who tries to bring us down either as individuals or as a party, there are 1,000 others who are doing extraordinary things in our community each and every day. These groups or individuals seek no accolades or recognition for what they do, yet what they do changes people's lives in very tangible ways. As the local MP, it is my very great honour to work with them and assist them where possible.

During the last term of parliament, I am proud of what I had been able to achieve for my beloved community. I am proud of the more than \$18 million I secured for local schools, of which the majority went to Ipswich's special schools. I love visiting them, or even when I am driving past them and see the construction activity and the jobs that brings and the raising of the morale of that school community that that investment brings. I am proud of the significant drop in youth unemployment and I delighted that the final stage of the Ipswich Motorway will happen, with \$200 million from the Palaszczuk government going towards the project. I am pleased that, for the hardworking and community minded people of the Ipswich Turf Club, I was able to secure \$13 million for a much needed upgrade to their facilities at Bundamba.

There are smaller, less expensive projects that have also contributed enormously to the wellbeing of the Ipswich electorate, such as the Ipswich safe cycle park, which I spoke about earlier this year in this parliament during an adjournment debate and which was opened by sports minister, the Hon. Mick de Brenni; the Big Ass fans for the hall at Ipswich State Central School—and I thank Bev Sheather and the executive of the Ipswich Central School P&C for their advocacy and for their own extraordinary fundraising efforts; and the reinstatement of tenancy advisory services, to name a few.

I am not resting on my laurels. As I repeatedly remind ministers and anyone else who will listen, Ipswich has been identified as the fastest growing local government authority in Queensland. That growth is becoming increasingly and rapidly obvious. I welcome this government's commitment to building two new schools in Ripley, the fastest growing suburb of all in Ipswich. The new primary school and high school are much needed. Once built, they will relieve congestion at schools such as Raceview State School, which is well and truly at capacity.

My electorate needs more relief for its rapid growth. The people of my electorate need to see the extension of the Springfield train line right through to Ipswich. They need a second crossing of the Bremer River to relieve congestion on the David Trumpy Bridge.

I welcome the Palaszczuk government's commitment to providing an extra \$124.4 million to Ipswich Hospital. This funding will see an MRI suite established at the hospital and will assist in the development of plans to expand the hospital site and includes a 50-bed mental health facility. Recently, Ipswich Hospital experienced its busiest day in emergency on record. I have no doubt that that day will not remain the record, as the population continues to increase rapidly and, with it, the demand for health services. It is the same situation with mental health. Supporting people experiencing mental health issues is absolutely imperative. I will continue to ensure that the Ipswich electorate gets its fair share of funding to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

It is not a pleasant subject, but there is no denying that Ipswich has a high incidence of ice usage and addiction. I commend the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ending the scourge of ice and I will fight to ensure that a drug rehabilitation centre is established in Ipswich. People experiencing addiction need the community's support to help them recover and become productive citizens.

Similarly, Ipswich, like most communities, is struggling to deal with the scourge of domestic and family violence. In our first term the Palaszczuk government made great strides in tackling this issue. One of the most successful tools was the establishment of DV courts. Ipswich needs a court dedicated to domestic and family violence, and I will continue to work towards ensuring that we get one. I want to thank all of the individuals and groups in Ipswich who are working so hard to eradicate domestic and family violence—in particular, the Domestic Violence Action Centre, or DVAC, led by Gabrielle Borggaard and all of her extraordinary team.

Earlier I spoke of those exceptional citizens in Ipswich who work tirelessly to support vulnerable people in our community. I would like to make mention of all our disability support service providers who always do extraordinary things but who, for the past few years, have been dealing with the introduction of the NDIS. I am optimistic about the values and goals of the NDIS, but I am also painfully aware of the difficulties that have arisen and continue to arise during the transition process. So, to Mickael Blanc at FOCAL, Judy Dickson at ALARA and to all of the disability employment providers and support workers in my community: thank you for the work that you are doing.

Being re-elected and commencing my second term in the Queensland parliament has been a time of reflection. I am so proud to be a part of the Palaszczuk government. I congratulate the Premier and all of my colleagues who were re-elected and I thank those who were not for their service and wish them well in their futures. Looking around this side of the House today fills me with joy. The team of 2015 now feel like family to me.

It is great to see people like the member for Gaven, who is the youngest woman ever to be elected to the Queensland parliament, and the member for Cook, the first Torres Strait Islander to be elected to parliament. It is fantastic to have one of our newly created state seats named after Ipswich woman Vi Jordan, the first Labor woman elected to the Queensland parliament, and even better to see another worthy and impressive woman, Charis Mullen, elected to the seat. Queensland Labor is leading the way. Our Premier is the first female to be elected Premier under her own right, not once but twice. We have a woman as Deputy Premier and we have equal gender representation on our front bench. In fact, looking around, there are almost as many women on this side of the House as there are men. This is good for Queensland on every single level. We are making history and I am honoured to be a part of that.

I want to acknowledge former state secretary of Queensland Labor Evan Moorhead and assistant state secretary Jon Persley for their fantastic contribution to our party in this state and for their election work during the 2017 election campaign. Newly appointed state secretary Jules Campbell and assistant state secretary Sarah Mawhinney have big shoes to fill, but I have absolute confidence that they will do so admirably.

I would not be here if it were not for the women who came before me. I am so fortunate to have many wonderful women in my life but the first two role models for me were my grandmother, Sybil Norton, and my mother, Barbara Jones, both sadly no longer with us. I would not be here if it were not for the people in my life who believe in me and who stand by me no matter what, a few of whom I would like to mention today: my partner, Simon, and his son, Oliver; my daughter, Samantha, and son-in-law, Tom; and my son, Oscar. Thank you for your unwavering support and love of me. Each one of you are an inspiration to me and I love you dearly.

To my campaign director and great friends Wayne McDonnell and his wife, Bronwen Cottman, thank you. Wayne runs an excellent campaign, staying on message, working all hours and advising and supporting me, not just during campaigns but all year round. In fact, most recently Wayne and Bronwen have taken on the additional responsibility of puppy sitting the beautiful but demanding Juno, our new addition from the RSPCA. To my electorate officers, Susan and Keryl, thank you for your attention to detail, your hard work and your personal support of me.

To all of the extraordinary volunteers who stood with me at train stations and in hi-vis—volunteers who doorknocked with me, did mobile offices with me, handed out how-to-votes at prepoll and on election day, made phone calls with me, made sandwiches and delivered them: thank you. I particularly want to thank Peter Duffy who put together the booth rosters for prepoll and for election day. This is not a task for the faint-hearted. Despite the fact he had never done it before, Peter did a fantastic job.


The 2017 state election was unlike any I have ever worked on previously, as our single real opponent was Pauline Hanson's One Nation. The LNP turned its back almost entirely on the Ipswich community. Not only did it fail to field a local candidate, its support of One Nation was noted with disgust by many LNP supporters, many of them my friends and well-respected members in our community. It is not my wont to be negative, but it needs to be said that the Pauline Hanson's One Nation candidate and supporters behaved appallingly.

Day after day at prepoll, my volunteers—who are experienced and who have always behaved respectfully at each and every single election I have ever had the privilege of working alongside them at—were subjected to abuse and bullying. I have been working on campaigns for more than 20 years and I have never seen anything like it. They were an embarrassment to themselves and to everyone who had to deal with them. Of course, the bullying and abuse by them and their supporters was extended to social media where comments directly related to me were nothing short of unhinged and in some cases downright violent, like the person who made the comment on a video I had posted, 'For God's sake, someone grab the scarf and choke the bitch.' I am pleased to say that none of the abusive people I have referred to actually live in Ipswich, which is certainly a good thing, but it does make me wonder why they were so passionate about wanting to represent Ipswich people.

Again I thank Ipswich people for voting for me. I thank all of those volunteers who maintained their dignity and grace throughout this election campaign. I thank them for the phone calls, the doors knocked, the fundraising, the campaign ideas and the contributions of each and every one of you. People like my dearest friend and mentor, Margaret Doran. I hope she will not mind me saying, but Margaret is now 83 years old and she just gets better and sharper with each passing year and I love and respect her enormously.

I also want to sincerely thank my union state secretary, Neil Henderson, and all of the Services Union team for their support of me in this campaign. I thank Dick Williams for whom I have much respect and his wife, Michelle Williams, who came out to defend Ipswich against the obnoxious orange army, otherwise known as One Nation, and along with their granddaughter Lily defend us they did—admirably!

Ipswich has been identified as the fastest growing city in Queensland. Have I said that before? As members will know, we have had our fair share of challenges over the years. I know that recent events relating to the Ipswich City Council have hit us hard. Ipswich people have an indomitable spirit. Where some people see challenges we see opportunities. My commitment to Ipswich is that no single opportunity for our community will be squandered under my watch. I have no doubt that given our growth, our welcoming and hardworking community and our growing multicultural community we will continue to attract investment and support into the future. There is every reason to be optimistic about the future of our great city and I am ready, willing and able to continue my strong representation of my beloved community. Thank you.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.06 pm): I acknowledge the Governor as the Queen's representative and the address that he provided at the opening of this session of parliament. I am humbled at the opportunity to again serve the people of Glass House, albeit a slightly different Glass House from the one I have served for the previous nine years. Sadly, with the redistribution I farewelled

the community of Palmwoods to my good colleague the member for Nicklin, and the community of Caboolture North to the newly elected LNP member for Pumicestone, Simone Wilson, and welcomed the communities of Mooloolah Valley, Ocean View, Upper Caboolture, Rocksberg and Moorina.

The last election campaign was tough. It was a tough campaign locally. For the first time ever the gloves came off in the electorate of Glass House and we saw a level of negativity that we had not seen before. In one night every political sign that I had erected from Mount Mee in the south to Mapleton in the north was destroyed through graffiti in what can only be described as a considered and coordinated attack. As much as that disappointed me, I was more disappointed for the volunteers who had put so much effort into raising the funds required to put up those signs. I am appalled that it has come to that. I will speak on that a little bit later.

We did have local successes. I acknowledge my new colleagues: the member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt; the member for Ninderry, Dan Purdie, the member for Buderim, Brent Mickelberg; and the member for Pumicestone, Simone Wilson. Locally on the coast it was a very successful election for the LNP.

The campaign was tough on Taryn and my kids. For the first time it really took a toll on them. I want to thank them for their love and their support and, in particular, their patience with me. I took a photo on Sunday—during the brief seven hours that I had with my family in between flying back from North Queensland and turning around and driving back here for parliament—and I just cannot believe how much my family has grown and how much they have changed over the time I have been a member of parliament. To Taryn, Daniel, Erin, Brielle, Benjamin and Rohanna, I love you dearly. Thanks so much for your support.

It was tough on my campaign team and I have a fantastic campaign team who have stood alongside me for four elections. I would love to mention them all, but they know who they are. I particularly single out Chris Sang, my new campaign director, who did an unreal job.

I acknowledge Joyce Newton. Sadly, Joyce was diagnosed with motor neurone disease at the start of 2017. The prognosis that she was given was that she would not see Christmas, which made it incredibly likely that she was not going to see the election. No-one was going to stop her, though! Not only did she see the election; she continued to do the amazing job she does in organising rosters at the various booths, coordinating sign sites and emailing members. Just think about someone with motor neurone disease, who is deteriorating day by day, doing all of those things.

At the start I acknowledged the Governor and I want to acknowledge him again. Earlier this year, Joyce received the Medal of the Order of Australia in the general division. Because of the nature of her disease, she was not able to travel to Government House to receive it. Instead, His Excellency came to the Newton's residence in Maleny and personally delivered the medal to Mrs Newton. I want to read out why Joyce received the OAM. The citation states—

For service to the community of Maleny, particularly in the area of sport as president, secretary and life member of a number of Maleny sporting clubs and in the areas of education, health, youth development and the Liberal National Party.

Joyce, thank you so much for what you have done for the LNP locally and for what you have done for me personally. Please keep it up for as long as you can.

It was tough on my electorate officers. I acknowledge Jenny Adermann and Megan Harkin who have both moved on to bigger and better things. Jenny now works in Kingaroy with a disability service provider as they transition to the NDIS and Megan was stolen by the member for Nicklin. I acknowledge my new electorate staff, Lee and Lauren. I also acknowledge young Eden, from Caloundra City Private School, who is currently with me on work experience and is sitting in the chamber today.

It was a tough campaign statewide. I acknowledge the leadership of Tim Nicholls. I acknowledge the work that he did throughout the last term in opposition and policies that he helped us take to the 2017 election. It was the most outstanding election in terms of policies, in terms of what we as candidates offered to local communities and what we offered to Queensland more broadly. Therefore, it was tough to see that Tim was not successful and has not had the opportunity to become premier of this state.

It was tough on me. It makes you wonder sometimes why you do this. I would not be telling the truth if I did not acknowledge that four elections and entering my fourth term is taking its toll on me. After the 2015 election, I felt similar sentiments and Taryn found me a quote that, funnily enough, six months later Joyce had framed and presented to me. It now hangs on my parliamentary office wall.

Many would have heard it before. It is an excerpt from a speech by US President Theodore Roosevelt titled 'Citizenship in a republic', which he delivered at the Sorbonne in Paris, France on 23 April 1910. President Roosevelt stated—

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

It is tough. I think one of the reasons it is so tough is that there is a huge sense of disillusionment across the state and in the electorate, and the people of Glass House and Queensland are looking for another way. I have reflected on this and realised two things. One is that there is a cause for this disillusionment and, secondly, that I personally have a choice. Let us talk about disillusionment.

Heck, I am disillusioned. What politics is becoming and what politicians have to do to win elections is not what I want to be or what I want to do. I am concerned at the state of democracy. I am concerned at the state of democracy in this state of Queensland, across this nation of Australia and, indeed, across the world. Voters are losing faith in their representatives, because increasingly their representatives are becoming self-serving to win elections. Where does it stop? No political party is immune to it, but the smug backroom operatives of the Labor Party believe that, by changing the electoral rules to suit themselves, it makes them somehow good at their jobs.

They changed the electoral boundaries, they changed the way we vote and they changed the donation laws, not to create a better democracy or to create better public debate but to deliver them one thing: government. However, they have forgotten that when it is about us as individuals, we fail the voters. When it is about winning by any means, we fail the voters. Ironically, we end up failing ourselves because I like to believe that none of us are in this place to fail the voters. Failing ourselves is bad, but failing the voters is catastrophic, as we end up failing the whole democratic structure on which we base so many of our hopes. Guess what? Over time that strategy is not sustainable, because the voters know and they look elsewhere, as they are now.

Sadly, the minor parties are no better. I had a conversation with a couple of constituents whose friendship I really value. They were once members of my party and they questioned why we did not get closer to the One Nation party in the lead-up to the last election. I can tell the House that, despite the One Nation candidate in Glass House openly admitting that the only reason they were running was to keep Labor and the Greens out and despite many of the 22 per cent in Glass House who voted for One Nation being what I considered disillusioned conservative voters, One Nation used a how-to-vote card to put Labor ahead of the LNP. In the seat of Glass House I hung on, because the vast majority of those 22 per cent who voted for One Nation ignored that how-to-vote card and put a second preference against the LNP. In seats such as Mansfield, Mount Ommaney and Redlands, One Nation handed the seat to Labor and we now have a majority Labor government because of that.

To the disillusioned conservative voters, we need to have a conversation. I know you are frustrated. I know you feel mistreated, neglected and forgotten, but the solution is not to vote in populist politicians who are more interested in media stunts, headline grabs or selfies of their semi-naked selves. To such voters, particularly in the north and west of Queensland, I say: as hard as it is, you get more for your part of Queensland when you have sensible, intelligent, hardworking individuals such as Lawrence Springborg, Andrew Cripps and the leader of the LNP, Deb Frecklington, who can sit around a cabinet or shadow cabinet table and have the tough hard conversations about delivering what is best for rural and regional Queensland—indeed, all of Queensland—and then, guess what? Actually delivering it! What have Katter's Australian Party and One Nation delivered other than headlines? Nothing but Labor state governments! You need only look at the bills on the current parliamentary *Notice Paper* and those that have already passed this session of parliament to see how that is going to destroy rural and regional Queensland.

There is disillusionment, but the results of it only create more disillusionment. Once I considered the causes of that disillusionment I realised that I had a choice and it is a choice that we all have. I could follow this path with the justification that that is the way things are done, that the end justifies the means or that there is no point having the best policy and being in opposition. Maybe I just needed to swallow my medicine and do some things that make me feel uncomfortable and, hopefully, tomorrow I would feel better. The alternative was that I could call it out. I could fight it, knowing that fighting it would be hard. As I have said, I have a family that need me and they do not need me wasting my time sitting in opposition criticising the choices other people make.

Then I remembered why I entered politics in the first place and why I joined a political party in the first place. At the time, I worked for the department of child safety under then premier Peter Beattie. That system was broken. Premier Beattie said, 'I know it's broken. Give me a chance to fix it. I'm going to fix it.' We had the Forde inquiry, but Mr Beattie's solution to fixing the department of child safety was only to make it worse. That system deteriorated more and more. I joined a party to write social policy for that party to offer an alternative to what I was seeing offered by the then Labor government.

Why did I run for the seat of Glass House? It was not an easy decision. As many know, I have a personal faith. I was concerned and still remain concerned that to be in politics one has to sell their soul to the devil. At the time I read a book by former deputy prime minister John Anderson entitled *Faith & Duty*. My wife, Taryn, read it as well. We were both convinced that one does not have to do that to make a difference through politics.

One does have to aspire to a higher ideal; otherwise it will simply be a race to the bottom. Politicians across the political spectrum need to make a choice. Recently I discussed with participants at the Queensland Servant Leadership Forum and with members of the parliamentary media team that, sure, politicians need to step up and need to do more. To our friends in the media, we need you to be there with us. For that to happen, we need the people of Queensland demanding more, demanding better, demanding considered and rational debate and discussion, not polarisation and put-downs and reality television type performances. The people of Queensland need to demand detail in their policy not just four-second grabs. The people of Queensland need to help create a space for us, their elected representatives, to think through decisions in a considered and reasonable way and not require a decision instantaneously.

To paraphrase Sir Robert Menzies, I want us to reject the false wars that divide Australians. It is the bonds that bind us that is the essence of Australians. It is the bonds that bind us that is the essence of Queensland. I do not want to race to the bottom. I want us to unify for the betterment of all of Queensland. Guess what? That may look and sound different in north and west Queensland from what it does in inner Brisbane or on the Sunshine Coast or Gold Coast. That is okay. That is healthy. That recognises our diversity.

I mentioned aspiring to a higher ideal—to taking up a challenge. As I battled through this assessment and this dilemma at the end of last year, like the nine years before it, I had the privilege, alongside you, Mr Deputy Speaker McArdle, of attending the senior awards night for the Glasshouse Christian College. I was struck by the conclusion of the evening. Before I relay this to the House, I must point out that what I am about to share is copyrighted to Glasshouse Christian College. If anyone intends to use it, please make sure you seek their permission, and reference it accordingly, as I have. It reads—

Back in 2013 the College leaders developed a set of ideals that they have sought to live by as they led the Student body. These ideals form the Glasshouse Christian College Student Leader's Charter. This charter is a reminder of the aspirations of the students, both past and present.

Each year the graduating class leave a physical legacy at the school to remind those students who follow what our College represents.

The original graduating class of GCC had as their theme Matthew 5:16—"Let your light shine."

As our leaders move from the College, it is fitting they pass on a legacy to the leaders who follow.

At this point, the college captains for the coming school year are invited onto the stage along with the current captains to perform the ceremony of the charter. It continues—

Jesus said "Let your light shine." We, the graduating class of Glasshouse Christian College have sought to reveal this light and we have aspired to these standards:

To work hard yet take time to be still.

To live the truth while respecting differences in others.

To follow what is right while remembering to stay close to those who stumble.

To act justly but not condemn.

To speak yet listen to others.

To celebrate success without conceit.

To take risks yet respect tradition.

To act humbly and with integrity, serve God and follow Jesus, contributing where we can and becoming the best that we can.


It finishes with this—

We now pass this light to you. Do you accept this challenge?

I found this inspiring. I realised that, although I have been tempted from the last tough campaign to either walk away or take up the race to the bottom, I would resist these easy paths and actually try to be a better version of myself. I am far from perfect. You just have to ask my wife, Taryn, that. I have made mistakes and I will make mistakes. I am human. That is not going to stop me trying to attain something more than what I currently am and offer to the people of Glass House.

I have made my choice. Even though the fight is unfair and it involves a huge uphill battle and even though I could lose, I realise that deep within me I cannot give in to the cheaters. I will not use those who are willing to sacrifice democracy for personal gain as my role models. I will not be succumbed by the promise of power. I will not toy with the laws of our democracy for my personal gain. I will not cheat. I will find a way where ethics and power can exist together. I will not sacrifice my marriage, my family, my faith or myself. I will fight, and I hope to win, not for myself but for the sake of those who come after us—to show that there is a different way. I will fight, and I hope to win, not for myself but for the democracy that I serve.

For those in this chamber I say now, as the students of Glasshouse Christian College said, 'I now pass this light to you. Do you accept this challenge?' I believe if 16- to 18-year-olds can accept that challenge then it is beholden on us to do the same. Do members accept that challenge? I do.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (3.25 pm): I rise in this place as the proud member for the Gladstone electorate for the second time. I sincerely thank every single voter who voted for me on 25 November last year.

A government member interjected.

Mr BUTCHER: It was quite a comfortable margin in the end, which I am very thankful for. The confidence of the people of Gladstone in me is humbling and my commitment to them is that I will be working hard every day to make sure that I continue to do the job that we started on 31 January 2015—that job being to keep achieving great things for every corner of the Gladstone electorate, even though it has now shrunk quite considerably after the redistribution and now only covers the suburbs of Gladstone, Boyne Island, Tannum Sands and a part of Benaraby.

In 2018 it may not be politically correct to say that behind every great man there is a successful woman, but I will take that risk and go a bit further by naming my whole family—my wonderful wife, Theresa, our beautiful daughter, Taylor, and her new husband, Matt, and our son, Blake. Without their love and support, I know that the demands of travel and time away from home would certainly make my job so much harder. A large part of my re-election success belongs to them. I cannot thank them enough for their support along the journey over the years.

I also extend thanks and gratitude to my extended family in Gladstone, with a special shout out to my mother and father, Annette and Neville Butcher, and my mother-in-law and father-in-law, Joanne and Dave Gourley. Their support for me over many years has been second to none and I appreciate it. The opinions and views of trusted people can never be dismissed. I thank them for that and for also being a sounding board over many a barbecue and family gathering. It would also be remiss of me not to mention the innocent assistance of my identical twin brother, Wayne, who often takes one for the team when he is congratulated for yet another great gain for the electorate or even does interviews with the local seven news.

As will be echoed by many in this chamber, success of those in public life can only happen with the support of reliable, competent staff. I say without any fear of contradiction that I certainly have hit the jackpot in that area. To my electorate officer and advisor, Tara Manning, and to my electorate office assistant, Jill Hopson, thank you so much. I know that their passion not only for me but also for the electorate is as powerful as mine. Tara and Jill's dedication and commitment to their roles is invaluable to me and is also unquestionable. I look forward to another term and beyond—much further beyond, I hope—of the same efficiency and support from my staff that I know I can always rely on. To the ever efficient and always obliging Aisha Sidhu, who is my assistant for my assistant ministerial role in Brisbane, thank you for your commitment and support. You are new to the job as well. Being a Gladstone born person is even more special.

It is no secret that being re-elected takes a big team working long hours to bring the desired outcome that we all seek. The Butcher campaign train often left the station very early in the morning and did not return until late at night, and we did not lose one single passenger along the way. Masses of supporters from ALP branches, trade union comrades, and family and friends again rose to the occasion, and together on the night of 25 November we reaped the fruits of the hard work when we

celebrated our convincing win. A special part of that evening was when Shelly Holzheimer, who was my campaign director at the time, had a 'shoey' when we heard that the Deputy Premier was also successful in her seat.

While I am talking about Shelly Holzheimer, I want to make special mention of her and acknowledge the work she has done for me over the years. She is certainly a very special person. I want to pay tribute to her in my contribution today. She has been going through a few health issues, and I would like to wish her the best with her health in her recovery.

I acknowledge and am extremely grateful for the support from the two unions of which I am a proud member—the AMWU and United Voice—and every other trade union whose members manned booths and assisted my campaign in many ways. I particularly thank Rohan Webb and Ann-Marie Allan who visited Gladstone on several occasions in the lead-up to the election and during the election campaign to make sure that I had all I needed to have a very, very successful campaign. To those two people I say thank you very much.

I want to make special mention of the dedication, support and reliability of two of my closest friends—Shelly Holzheimer and Matt Burnett, who have stood beside me every single day since I first contested the seat of Gladstone. The Mayor of Gladstone, Matt Burnett, holds his own weight when it comes to not only helping me get over the line but also the fantastic work that he does in our community as the Mayor of Gladstone. We have spent many days and nights sitting around the timber table at Shelly's house not only talking strategy and politics but also talking about a lot of other things including the opposition. I would also like to take the time to thank Shelly's husband, John, for his support of us and for always having a nice cold beer when we go around to their place, to help us maintain hydration during these catch-up sessions.

During my first term I was honoured to be a member of the infrastructure, planning and natural resources committee and then to be chair of the agriculture and environment committee. The role of committees in Queensland ensures that the legislation we pass in this House undergoes consultation with Queenslanders, and that cannot be understated. I valued greatly my time on these committees, the inquiries that we conducted and the Queenslanders I got to meet along the way. To cover just about every part of Queensland in my first term was absolutely amazing.

I was proud to then serve as assistant minister for local government and infrastructure, transport and main roads and now to serve as the Assistant Minister for Treasury in the Queensland government. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Jackie Trad, for her ongoing support of me and the leadership and guidance that she has given me in my role as her assistant minister over the last couple of years.

During my first term many great things were achieved for the Gladstone electorate, and most notably was an investment in infrastructure right across the length and breadth of the electorate in areas that matter most not only to me but also to my electorate—health and education. Yes, I am committed to the progression of projects in the years to come. The Palaszczuk government has made an unprecedented level of investment in schools in my local electorate—in excess of \$27 million—and, with the capital investment to build a new high school in the area of Calliope, now in the electorate of Callide, ready for enrolments in 2020, the figure is closer to \$87 million in investment.

As I said, even though Calliope high school is no longer in my electorate after the redistribution, I will continue to advocate for this high school going forward. It was a pleasure to be part of the first committee meeting recently for that school, chaired by the member for Keppel, to make sure that people from the community and surrounding areas are involved in what goes on at that brand-new school. It was wonderful to attend that meeting as the assistant minister to make sure that we keep this project on track.

Make no mistake: this school was at risk of never, ever going ahead under the former LNP government. When we were elected—and I mentioned this in my first speech—the first visit I had from the Premier was to come and help me pull down the 'for sale' sign that the LNP had put up on that land. We know how hard it is for schools to be built on land that is not there ready to be built on. It was great that the community group, ably led by Linda Ninnas, advocated loud and clear to the new government under Anastacia Palaszczuk that we needed to keep the land. Their advocacy to the then minister Kate Jones, who heard our story—and I thank her; she is in the chamber here today—not only made sure that the school was being talked about but also made sure that the land was saved, and now we are actually delivering a brand-new high school for that community ready for students in 2020. I thank the minister for that.

Infrastructure investment can be seen across almost all local schools in my electorate, and I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to the education of our children. I look forward to opening many of these buildings. I acknowledge Minister Grace Grace who was recently in Gladstone opening four new buildings, and there are another two to open in the coming months.

I am also looking forward to the commencement of the second phase of construction of the new accident and emergency department in Gladstone later on in the year. This is one of the things that I am most proud of in my 3½ years. The first stage is well underway, with the car park now complete. That leaves us to get on with building the \$40 million upgrade to the Gladstone accident and emergency department. We have slowly filled the vacancies of specialists at the hospital with permanent appointments and we will continue to deliver more nurses and more doctors to ensure that patients in my community can get the care they deserve.

One of the most pressing issues raised with me during my first term was that if a child broke her arm on the weekend jumping on a trampoline she would have to be sent to Rockhampton for the simplest of treatments. I am proud to say that we are getting better in Gladstone. That little girl on the trampoline can now get an X-ray, she can have a cast set and she can have that break reviewed all in Gladstone without having to travel up the road to Rockhampton. This might not seem like much, but for Gladstone it is a big achievement. When the health service was suffering from the systemic cuts under the Newman-Nicholls government and from a model of operating on locum after locum, we suffered badly. There is more work to be done in Gladstone. I am actively working towards a service where all fractures, including those requiring surgery, are treated in Gladstone.

I am also sorry to say that recently we have seen the closure of maternity services at the Mater Hospital in Gladstone which is very concerning to my constituents because a lot of private health is subsidised by major industry in Gladstone. To see a service like that close down at the private hospital is certainly very concerning. I would also like to acknowledge Minister Miles, who is here today, who came up with \$1.2 million to invest in the Gladstone Hospital to make sure those 160-odd patients who come through from the Mater can now be taken care of in the public hospital at Gladstone to make sure that women living in the suburbs of Gladstone can have their baby delivered in Gladstone. There would be nothing worse—this is nothing against the member for Rockhampton—than one of our Gladstone residents having ‘born in Rockhampton’ on their birth certificate. Also, the new step-up step-down mental health facility in Gladstone is set to open in the second half of 2018 to fill a gap in our mental health services in Gladstone.

I am proud to see that the Palaszczuk government Works for Queensland program has seen investment in many of our local clubs, including the western suburbs swimming pool, the new BMX track, the Lions Park, the Bunting dog park and a new pump track at Boyne Island—just to name a few who received funding from that wonderful program. I have talked to a lot of those local contractors who have received work under that program. Not only are they so happy for that project to continue, but the Gladstone Regional Council is certainly looking forward to more investment in those special projects that deliver for our community.

To top it off, we will be delivering a \$970,000 Rugby League Centre of Excellence at the home of Rugby League—Marley Brown Oval. I was most proud when this year we held our first ever NRL game when the Titans had to relocate because of the Commonwealth Games. Once again, I thank Minister Jones and her department, and the Mayor of Gladstone with his advocacy, to make sure that we had a fair chance of hosting that first ever NRL game in Gladstone. To see over 8,000 tickets sold in the first week and over a thousand grandstand tickets sold in the first 20 seconds bodes well for the sport in Gladstone, and we will now have a centre of excellence that can support those types of games in Gladstone. It will be great to see all of these projects completed this year to benefit many in our community.

Works for Queensland is a hugely successful program that is delivering fantastic community infrastructure right across my electorate. It is a program that I know councils right across Queensland are embracing. I have travelled around Queensland and have heard from many mayors that this program is allowing them to invest in their community in ways on projects that just would not be possible without it.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Gladstone Regional Council for the commitment it has given to make Gladstone a better region, a better place to live, a better place to work and a better place to play through projects which it has put forward under this program. Works for Queensland is also delivering much needed jobs across regional Queensland. The Palaszczuk government has agreed to extend this program and I cannot wait to see what it will continue to deliver for my Gladstone community.

I want to mention another two important programs that are supporting positive outcomes in the electorate of Gladstone—the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which the Palaszczuk government reinstated, and the new Back to Work program. Both of these programs are delivering real employment prospects for the people of Gladstone. Skilling Queenslanders for Work gives people a chance to reskill in areas of need, to undertake work readiness activities and an opportunity to experience a totally different type of work.

The Back to Work program is supporting people who are unemployed to gain a job by giving incentives to businesses in Gladstone who take on and keep new employees. The program has evolved to include specific incentives for mature age workers, a real area of need in Gladstone particularly after the LNG boom. I have attended many graduations for these programs and have spoken with many business owners, and I can tell the House that these programs are really changing people's lives—both employees and employers alike.

The other area of significant benefit in my community during my term as the member for Gladstone has been that of grants. From big sporting infrastructure grants from Get Playing Places of \$134,000 to small business grants of \$5,000 or \$2,000 for an event to host Seniors Week or other multicultural events in my community, it is fantastic to see this government supporting our community in a real and genuine way.

We have provided close to \$8 million in grants to over 100 organisations in the Gladstone electorate in my time as the member. The total including some smaller grants is \$7,873,000, which is amazing. Making phone calls to groups like the Boyne Tannum Men's Shed, the Gladstone and District Hockey Association or the Orchid and Foliage Society to let them know they can now install that shed, purchase that mower or put solar panels on their roof is honestly one of the best parts of my job. The benefit of these groups in making our communities more connected and more cohesive cannot be understated, which is why I will always support these groups in any way that I can to ensure that they have the best chance of getting these grants.

The outlook for Gladstone is bright. After the impacts of the downturn in the resources sector and the construction phase of the gas plants coming to an end, we are now looking to the future with new industry opportunities aplenty. The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision for a sustainable billion dollar export oriented industrial biotechnology and bioproducts sector in Queensland, and Gladstone is perfectly positioned to capitalise on this opportunity. Great things are already being achieved including technological advancements at Northern Oil's advanced biofuels plant in Yarwun and the international attention and investment it is receiving.

We have reinstated the Gladstone Development Board which aims to drive industry investment and to promote the benefits of our region as a world-class industrial hub. Gladstone is home to major industry including three large LNG facilities, an alumina smelter, two alumina refineries, a chemical plant and cement works as well as cutting-edge, innovative industries and technology including a pilot biofuel facility and an oil shale demonstration plant.


The Gladstone region is an ideal location for investment containing the 27,000-hectare state development area; access to the port of Gladstone, Queensland's largest multicommodity, deepwater port; direct access to major road and rail connections; access to a large and highly skilled workforce in a world-class regional city; and significant industrial clustering opportunities. Gladstone is the best location in Australia to support a sustainable manufacturing and industrial hub.

The Gladstone State Development Area is a clearly defined area of land established by the Coordinator-General to promote economic development in Gladstone and provides an ideal location for major businesses and industry to invest. There is no doubt that Gladstone is Australia's premier industrial location with a world-class deepwater priority port adjacent to state development land. It is an attractive place for industrial enterprises especially in the renewables sector.

We have also recently approved a half a billion dollar solar farm at Aldoga which is also transitioning with workforce opportunities for people to come back home. So many of my good friends and trade mates have had to work away from their families, and it is so hard for them to leave their families and then come back to Gladstone. Hopefully, these types of projects moving forward over the next couple of years can get those mums and dads back home where they belong, to their families in Gladstone.

In conclusion, I extend my thanks to the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and all of the ministers in this government for their support of my electorate since I was first elected and for the support that I know will continue into the future. The Gladstone electorate has been starved of its fair share of funding grants for over two decades under an independent member. Since the installation of a fair Labor

government which rules for all electorates, my electorate has seen more gains in three years than in the previous 20 years. I stand 100 per cent committed and steadfast in my promise to the people who have shown faith in me to keep working hard each and every day to ensure that, with the backing of this Labor government, the progress will continue in my electorate every single day of the week.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.46 pm): It is quite incredible that it is almost 10 months since the state election and the address-in-reply, the response to the Governor's address, is still going on. I am delighted as the member for Maroochydore to stand in this place even if this parliament is run in a very shoddy way by this Labor government that could not run a chook raffle. It is an extraordinary situation where we have seen very limited numbers of parliamentary sitting dates, but I want to be here to fight for my area—to fight for the people of Queensland.

There are some very good reasons to stand up and to be in that fight because it does matter. It is about standing up and providing an alternative to the government but, most importantly, advocating for people who elect us to come to this place on their behalf. That is why I am going to advocate today for a different focus with respect to infrastructure.

We have seen the Treasurer stand up in this place and outside in the community and talk about how they are going to start spending money on infrastructure and there has been an infrastructure underspend. News flash: who was responsible for that \$9 billion cut in infrastructure spending in Queensland? It was the Labor government. We saw a nearly \$9 billion underspend—a cut from infrastructure spending in this state—from what was spent previously by the state LNP government. It is an average of \$3 billion less per year. That has a huge impact upon the state.

I will fight tooth and nail for a fair share for my area. As I say to people, it is not only about a fairer share of the pie; there needs to be a bigger pie for everybody in the state. If you take \$9 billion out of the infrastructure spending of Queensland, that has a huge legacy impact. If you are sitting in traffic in gridlock, it is because of that infrastructure cut by this state Labor government.

We see this replicated in so many areas of its poor management. This part-time Premier, who shifted the parliamentary sitting days to swan off to London for one of the preliminary Commonwealth Games events at short notice, has overspent her ministerial expenses by about \$300,000 and her team of ministers has overspent by about \$1.18 million—an extraordinary amount. They know they can put their hands into the pockets of the mums and dads out there, take that money out and put it on their travel expense account. They have the wrong priorities. While those mums and dads are paying more for petrol while stuck in traffic and paying extra for their registration which has soared under this state Labor government, this government is out of touch with the real priorities.

We have seen the Premier spend \$10,000 on hotel bills at the Commonwealth Games. We have seen the ministerial team spend something like \$81,000 on hotel bills at the Commonwealth Games. The list goes on. They do not have their priorities right. Meanwhile, in the parliament, which I mentioned before, the Premier shifted the sitting dates with only a few weeks notice so she could go off to London. This was a huge expense for anyone who had booked to come to parliament as part of their duties.

The Premier has brought in, under her watch, an extraordinary gag. We have never seen a gag like the one that this Premier has brought in. It reduces the time allowed to debate legislation in this House. I have watched the Labor ministers and the backbenchers laugh about it and think it is a trivial matter, but this is the worst gag we have ever seen. Yes, we have seen people of all political persuasions truncate debates, but we have never had a standing gag that truncates the debate on all legislation. That is what the government have done and it shows the height of their arrogance.

They spend up big on hotel bills, travel bills and ministerial expenses. They spend up big on their hospitality, but they are in fact a part-time Premier and ministerial occupants of this place because they fail to allow the people's representatives to have the true opportunity to get into this House and debate legislation without this standing gag. We have never seen a gag like this in this House before. It is a disgrace. It is an absolute disgrace. This Labor government's priorities are wrong, and it is at the expense of everybody out there because they are paying a higher cost of living because of them.

I want to advocate for the infrastructure I want to see in my area. We have seen a huge population spike in my area, and this has been encouraged by this Labor government but there has not been a corresponding infrastructure plan to deliver. I want to make it quite clear that it has to be a plan to deliver the infrastructure—not just putting out infrastructure plans that are not delivered and then underspending in the budget that is announced to the public.

We need to see the Sunshine Coast rail line duplicated. That is a key commitment of the LNP team and a key commitment of the LNP leadership. I want to acknowledge my new parliamentary colleagues. It is great to have next to me at the moment the new member for Lockyer. I also mention

the Sunshine Coast members—Dan Purdie, the member for Ninderry; Marty Hunt, the member for Nicklin; Brent Mickelberg, the member for Buderim; and Simone Wilson, the member for Pumicestone. We are all in there as a team working together, fighting for and determined to see this infrastructure delivered. It is ridiculous that in many areas of this state there are actually fewer people catching public transport, even with the existing infrastructure. This government is so incompetent that, even with the existing rail and bus infrastructure, we have seen a fall in patronage in many areas. I want to table an article in today's *Sunshine Coast Daily* that talks about the slide in public transport use on the Sunshine Coast.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, dated 4 September 2018, titled 'Public transport use slides' [\[1280\]](#).

With the 'rail fail', we know that it is also impacting on other areas of this state. It is time for the Sunshine Coast rail line to be duplicated, after Anna Bligh misled the public and ripped up the documents that were to see that duplicated after the 2009 election.

I want to thank our federal colleagues who have delivered on federal funding, where we have never seen federal funding for this type of rail infrastructure before. It is a new deal and it is a good deal, and now we need to see this state Labor government stop playing politics and take the money and build it. They need to get on with it because this is good news. It is a forerunner to fast rail and better transport to the Sunshine Coast and certainly to my electorate of Maroochydore. To those in our federal team I say, 'Good on you,' because they have managed to get the good bucks out of the federal government. Now we need to see the priorities sorted with this Labor government, rather than as I have outlined the huge cut in infrastructure spending in recent years.

I turn to the Sunshine Motorway. I was pleased that, under an LNP government, we had funding spent on safety upgrades which saw, as I understand it, no deaths between the Pacific Paradise and Coolum sections after those upgrades were implemented. Tragically, just in the last few weeks, we have actually seen two deaths in that area. Any death is a tragedy. I stand with the member for Ninderry as we advocate for the duplication of that section of the Sunshine Motorway.

The other section that also has a huge impact on people's lives is the dangerous weave near the Mooloolah River interchange. The Sunshine Coast LNP team has spoken about the need for an upgrade of that Mooloolah River interchange, and we want to see that spaghetti junction fixed. This is where traffic on the motorway merges with oncoming traffic and traffic also leaves the motorway, and there is also a need for the new connection to the Sunshine Coast University public hospital.

Most of the acquisitions of land at the Mooloolah River interchange occurred previously. A lot of them actually occurred when we were in government and there was a redraft of the plan so that it would not be a \$1.1 billion or \$1.2 billion project in the first stage but it could be staged to be a \$400-plus million project to enable that to get on and be built. That drafting occurred, but I acknowledge that there has been a delay in the process of the new business case coming forward. It was recently announced that there will be a business case, but I do not think that will be finished until—

Mr Mickelberg: 2020.

Ms SIMPSON: It is 2020? It will certainly not be done in a hop, skip and a jump. I say to the transport minister that that is not only disappointing; it will actually have a real impact on people's lives because the growth that is being experienced in that area of the Sunshine Coast means that it is dangerous and it needs to be fixed. The land has largely been acquired. The change in the route occurred under the LNP. There was some pain in that because, obviously, when there is any acquisition of people's property and a change in a route that impacts someone who did not know they were going to be impacted, there is a real impact that goes beyond just the capital impact of having to sell their property to the government. That occurred previously, but we now need to see this actually started. That is why we want to advocate that the Mooloolah River interchange be built.

The other area I want to mention is in regard to the need for the Sunshine Coast to have an exhibition and convention centre. I want to commend the Sunshine Coast council for the work they have done in regard to the functional brief. What is that? That is about the type of facility they believe best fits within the suite of facilities on the Sunshine Coast. We are a beautiful region of 340,000 people with no convention centre. In fact, the biggest facilities on the Sunshine Coast are probably the churches. They are wonderful, but that is not where you want to run your conventions and exhibitions from.

The fact that we do not have a facility that will take more than about 800 or 1,000 at a squeeze, if there is not going to be too much space, is an incredible deficit on our region. My vision is to see a Sunshine Coast that has a deeper economic base, where people can have not only a lifestyle but also a livelihood. When they set up their businesses or they work for those local businesses, they need to know that they have a great opportunity to afford their own homes, to bring their children up and send

them to the schools of their choice and to contribute to our society. That means there has to be a deepening of the economic base on the Sunshine Coast beyond our traditional areas of industry. We do not want to see those industries go, but we need to see other industries. That is where the provision of the new Sunshine Coast University public hospital was so exciting. Working together with the universities and the new medical school, that is commencing.

It is also exciting to see the range of businesses that have an opportunity to work in partnership with some of these new sectors, with our hospital and health sector and of course with the university itself. A vision of free enterprise is recognising that we need good public servants, but we need a small and medium size business sector that is able to employ people, that knows they can have a fair dinkum go of it and that knows the government will understand the impacts of any new taxes and not just think twice about new taxes but actually consult with the business sector about them.

That is why I want to take the opportunity to say that the state government's proposed new taxes, particularly the waste tax, are diabolical. There are actually people already in a number of these industries who have been recycling and who have been innovative, but they now find that, rather than this necessarily being a new opportunity, as the government says when it introduces a tax, this is another level of bureaucracy. I am keen to see innovators actually rewarded, not by bureaucratic red tape and taxes but by a government that works with them and consults with them and ensures they do not get penalised for being the ones who are out there creating a better workplace and a better environment for our community.

Going forward, I want to strongly state what an honour it is to represent the seat of Maroochydore. I have seen a number of changes to the boundaries, and I lost the Coolum area to my new colleague the member for Ninderry. I am delighted to have new colleagues in the parliament. We miss communities; we really become embedded in those local areas. However, if I had to lose an area, I was delighted that it would be to a new LNP colleague. I certainly congratulate the member for Ninderry, as I do my other new colleagues in this parliament.

The electorate of Maroochydore has a number of industries. As I have mentioned, we have the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. It is not within my boundaries, but it is very much within the economy and the service area of the Sunshine Coast which I represent. We also have the tourism industry, which has its highs and lows and ups and downs. It is such a beautiful area of the Sunshine Coast that I am fortunate to represent. We are seeing new investment into that sector as well as the hospitality sector.


One of the things I enjoy not only as the local member but also as the shadow minister for employment and small business, training and skills development is going out and getting to know some of the new businesses that are coming into my area. It is fascinating to see some of the young people who are saying, 'We want to have a go at this. We do not believe in working for somebody else, good as that can be. We want to actually be the ones who chart our own future and destiny.' That is why I was so delighted to take on the role of small business shadow minister for the LNP. These people are the ones who are out there creating the jobs—the sustainable jobs of the future, the ones who are out there creating the wealth and employing people.

True employment opportunity does not come about because a government thinks up a program; it comes about due to those who are willing to put their own capital on the line and get out there and make it happen. I admire them. They are the champions of our local community. They deserve a government that understands the risks they take and that does not put its foot on their necks every chance they get. That is why I believe that in the LNP—as champions for small business, as people who understand it because so many of our people come from that background and are embedded in our community—we see a party that really gets it and understands that every time government brings in a regulation without considering the impact on the small business sector, it is really doing a disservice to the future jobs of the local community.

I want to give a shout-out to some of my local schools, particularly to Maroochydore State High School. I was delighted to see the funding come through for some of the new buildings there because that was something for which I had advocated and fought and something that I committed to as part of an LNP team. I am pleased to acknowledge that the current education minister has also committed to that and that is something we are able to see delivered on the Sunshine Coast.

Going forward, I want to thank those in our local schools and education sector who are working hard with our children. As has been noted by my colleagues with respect to the issue of independent public schools, we want to see parents working with schools and having the opportunity of making those good schools even greater. We do not want to see them controlled and dominated by those from afar because of a union push to take away the right of those independent public schools to have that say in

their future. That is why I will keep fighting for my local area. Our people are great people and they deserve to have a say in their future. They do not deserve to have it taken away through backroom deals made by some union hacks who think it is about control rather than service first.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.03 pm): I would like to start by thanking the Speaker for his leadership in starting each parliamentary week with an acknowledgement of the traditional owners. Australia should be proud of a history of this land which has held the oldest surviving cultures in the world, a story which continues to this day.

Earlier in the address-in-reply debate another member mentioned his support for Australia Day. I, too, remain committed to celebrating our nation on this day with my community—for now. I join with community members to celebrate what is good about our nation, but I also reflect on those things that are difficult to acknowledge. One poignant moment for me occurred during the sesquicentenary of Taroom, my mother's home town. My uncle, who was filling the role of parish priest for a year, organised a group of Indigenous people who were descended from people who had lived at the Taroom mission to return to the town for the celebrations. This caused quite a stir but, ultimately, was good for the celebrations. It led me to ponder why this had occurred and also led me to reflect on why I knew so little about the original inhabitants of this town and area that had been so much a part of my life.

The people who lived at the Taroom mission probably did not include the traditional owners of this land. The traditional owners, as recognised recently by the High Court of Australia, were driven almost to extinction following the well-documented Hornet Bank massacre. A series of atrocities were committed by all people involved, but there can be no doubt that the Iman, the local Indigenous people, were dealt with brutally and extrajudicially. No doubt dispossession of their traditional lands was well underway by this time, but these episodes drove the people almost to the point of extinction.

My grandparents arrived in this district approximately 50 to 70 years after these events, no doubt seeking a place to recover from the horrors of the Great Depression. They took no part in these events and I have no recollection of my grandmother speaking about Indigenous people except in a distant but generally positive manner. For 60 years Taroom provided a stable home for my mother's family and other members of our family and it provided a base from which to start and continue a great education.

There can be no doubt that this education and commitment to education has led to prosperity and security for subsequent generations. There is no doubt in my mind that this has been achieved at the expense of the Iman people. I, therefore, humbly pay my respects to the Iman people who inhabit the lands surrounding Taroom and to all Indigenous Australians. In doing so I recall the apology offered by then prime minister Kevin Rudd just over 10 years ago to all Indigenous Australians and, in particular, the stolen generations. We cannot change the past. We can seek forgiveness and we can work together to build a better future.

Like all in this House, I have affirmed my loyalty to the Queen and I remain absolutely committed to our system of democracy. However, it is no secret that I would prefer a republic with an Australian head of state, and we will get there. As part of a move to a republic I believe there should be a process to realise true peace and reconciliation between the original custodians of this land and those of us who have arrived more recently. Perhaps the Uluru Statement from the Heart would be a good place to start. When we are truly reconciled, we will come to find a genuine national day to celebrate our community.

As a society we have shown great resilience and capacity for change. The same-sex marriage debate was very difficult, but we survived. Acknowledging our past can also be very difficult. However, as a country, a nation and a community we must have the fortitude to acknowledge what has occurred and work together to build our community for the future.

My community is a diverse, exciting and vibrant community which I remain both humble and proud to represent in this House. It is again a privilege to be the representative of that community as part of this majority Labor government. I offer my sincere congratulations to the Premier and the ministers on their re-election and reappointment. I certainly offer my sincere congratulations to all members of the House regardless of their political persuasion. We all know how challenging it is to get the opportunity to represent our community. I commend all members for continuing their work of furthering democracy.

I would like to thank a number of people who have helped me to achieve this. I would like to start by thanking my wife, Susan Adams, and daughters, Molly and Brenna. I think we all know the significant sacrifices that our family make for us to have the opportunity to be in this place. I would also like to thank and acknowledge my mother. Thanks to the wonderful parliamentary staff who do so many great things for us, there is a system set up so now my mother can get on her computer in Coolum Beach and watch a speech like this.

I would like to acknowledge my brothers and sisters: Christine, Bill, Peter, Paul, Vincent, Angela and all of my extended family. I will not name them all because we only have 20 minutes, but I do acknowledge them all and thank them for their ongoing love and support.

I would like to thank the office staff who worked with me over the last few years: Matt Sellars, Brooke Wilson, Catherine Birmingham, Fran Bell and Rachel Quinn—all people who are dedicated and worked hard for the electorate of Greenslopes. I would like to thank my campaign manager, Matthew Campbell. He worked astoundingly hard. I do not think he knows what the word 'no' means. He will always turn out and dig deep. I would like to thank the members of my campaign team: Daryl Sparkes, Jordan Ayton, David Barbagello and Richard Cleal. They all did a fantastic job. They were supported by many volunteers and Greenslopes branch members. I would particularly like to acknowledge Derek Wood, John Savage, Jim Loftus, Lisa O'Donnell, John Limpus, Matilda Keenan, Mark Miles, Lyle and Trish Nicholson, Heather Abramson, Brock Taylor, Peter Stirk, Ian McLennan, Tony Brown and Chris Anderson. There are many donors who supported my campaign. I would particularly like to thank a very old friend of mine, Crichton McIntyre.

I want to acknowledge the tireless work and leadership in our community of Terri Butler, the federal member for Griffith. She supported me, but she does so much to support our community. I simply would not be here if it wasn't for Terri. All of the party office staff worked hard during the election, and I particularly want to thank Adam Obeid, Josh Milroy and Jon Persley. I think the last speech finished with some sort of callout about 'union hacks' only being interested in power. The last time I checked with my union colleagues we were interested in protecting workers' rights, making sure people got fair pay for a fair day's work, making sure they got home safe and making sure we achieved good outcomes for our entire society. I want to thank the TWU, the Plumbers Union, the SDA, the AWU, the Services Union, the QTU, the QNMU—of course—and all of those other unions out there.

I reserve my final thanks for the people I want to thank most deeply: the people who live in the electorate of Greenslopes, who gave me their support and returned me to this place. I am here to represent all people. Over the last three years it has been an absolute privilege to work hard for, and with, the people of Greenslopes. It was a huge honour and a big responsibility to be re-elected to represent my electorate. It is the community that my wife and I have called home for over 21 years.

After three years as a local member, my appreciation and understanding of our community has grown immensely. Ours is a community where people value education and are proud of schools like Seville Road State School, Saint Agnes Catholic Primary and Cavendish Road State High School. Ours is a community of diversity. Ours is a community of many faith traditions, with Australia's second-oldest mosque sitting comfortably alongside Christian, Jewish and Buddhist places of worship.

Ours is a community where people contribute to the arts by maintaining community organisations like the Women's Creative Centre or classical music station 4MBS, which everybody in Queensland can enjoy. Ours is a community where children are nurtured in homes, schools and community organisations like the Wynola Girl Guides. Ours is a community that embraces change but wants to be actively involved in setting the direction of that change.

Ours is a community where Zigzag and the Brisbane Youth Service are supported by the community to respond to the scourge of family and domestic violence. Ours is a community that knows that everyone needs a secure home and we value every single person, whether they live in social housing or in a mansion. Ours is a community where people with disabilities due to age or illness are empowered by groups like the Holland Park Meals on Wheels, Vision Australia and Grow. Ours is a community that enjoys spending time in Mott Park hanging out at the Coorparoo Bowls Club and cheering for the many sporting teams under the banner of the mighty Easts Tigers, and I wish them luck in this Saturday's preliminary final. Ours is a community that gathers in great numbers to run in the park every Saturday morning at the Stones Corner park run or play netball at Wembley Park.

Ours is a community that understands the value of public transport, and we use it. Ours is a community where volunteers run great community events like the Mt Carmel and Marshall State School fetes. Ours is a community that looks to the future but values the past, with groups like the Coorparoo & District Heritage Group actively working to preserve our history and educate the next generation about that history.

Ours is a community where, in one day alone, I can bump into the imam of our local mosque, a researcher from the Gallipoli Medical Research Centre, a small business owner, a volunteer at a P&C, a worker supporting people affected by domestic violence or a young student with a vision for an innovative start-up. All will ask me, 'What more can we do to support each other?' 'What more can we do to respect each other?' 'What more can we do to build community?'

Ours is a community that contributes much to our great state. At the 2015 election I committed myself to the task of building community. I did this because people told me they wanted their political leaders to build community. My community witnessed the division and damage caused by the Newman government and came to realise from this just how important caring, compassionate and listening governments are. Moreover, people of the Greenslopes community instinctively understand that our lives are better if we have a strong and healthy community that works together. I share this value.

To build community across the last term of parliament I used my very privileged position to listen to people and organisations. I took every opportunity to engage with people, to ask questions and to attempt to understand what they wanted for themselves, their families, their careers, their community groups, their businesses, their future and their community.

Building community occurs when you connect good people and encourage them to work together, and we have no shortage of good people across the electorate of Greenslopes. During the last three years I have worked with community members and groups to establish our local Australia Day, Queensland Day and International Nursing and Midwifery Day celebrations. We have worked together with 30 to 40 different community organisations, local businesses and Public Service departments to develop the Greenslopes community domestic and family violence prevention plan, which has recently seen us providing education to people who work in the hairdressing industry in our area so that they can provide advice and support if they have clients who are affected by domestic violence. These are real outcomes.

I have worked with the community to preserve the Coorparoo School of Arts and Memorial Hall. Last week we had our AGM. Two years ago when I joined we had two members and we have now passed the 20-member mark. We have clear ownership of this beautiful old hall. As it celebrates its 126th anniversary next month, we will have this hall in our community for many, many years to come in community use. We worked together to re-establish the suburb name and separate the suburb of Stones Corner so that once again Brisbane has the iconic area of Stones Corner.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr KELLY: I will take that interjection; it is great to have it back. I have worked together with many community organisations to educate the community about health matters such as stroke prevention and CPR. By listening to the community I have identified the challenges that people face, and I have worked doggedly to fix these problems. I have maintained pedestrian access to buses and shops for people in Mount Gravatt; built sporting facilities for students with disabilities at Nursery Road Special School—I would like to acknowledge the former education minister for her support—and I have worked together with P&Cs and P&Fs to improve road safety at Holland Park State School, Mount Gravatt State School and Mt Carmel. We have gained a go card reading machine at the Greenslopes IGA, giving access to a whole lot of people, particularly pensioners, to top up their go cards. We have preserved parklands in Holland Park.

I have listened to small businesses and connected them with government services to support them to grow and prosper for our entire community. I have worked with numerous community organisations, listened to their challenges and concerns, and assisted them with strategic planning, marketing and fundraising. I have supported groups like the Coorparoo junior Aussie Rules club in their effort to create pathways from under fives to a professional competition for girls and women. I have worked with groups like the Coorparoo Secondary College P&C and TAFE to save their tuckshops and the Mount Gravatt Community Centre—which is now in the electorate of Mansfield—to celebrate Seniors Week.

Of course, listening to people and organisations comes easily to members of the Palaszczuk government. Our Premier leads by example. Whether you are in Greenslopes or on Horn Island, the Palaszczuk government listens to all Queenslanders and works with all Queenslanders to build our great state. There are three key commitments I made to the people of Greenslopes in the recent election: I vowed to continue the work of improving public transport; I committed to backing our local schools; and I promised to create more local jobs. Improved public and active transport is critical to the successful future of my community. People in my electorate understand the flow-on benefits of public and active transport for health and the environment. Fairer Fares and the Veloway—two initiatives that I spoke about in the House earlier this afternoon—are getting more people to use public and active transport.

Of course, the big piece of infrastructure is our commitment to Cross River Rail. Unlike those opposite, who have consistently opposed this vital infrastructure, we are building it. This piece of infrastructure is fundamentally important for the entirety of South-East Queensland and will deliver

economic benefits to be felt right across the entire state. An efficient south-east corner creates massive demand for goods and services from throughout the state. People in my electorate support it because it gets people home faster, is good for the environment and creates jobs.

Investment in education and schools is fundamental to us building a more equitable and just society. People in my electorate understand the link between education, good health outcomes and a good society. Our future will be different. We face a future of changing technology, a changing economy and changing employment. Education provides the best tool that young people can have to benefit from this inevitable change. That is why I continue to back our local schools.

The Palaszczuk government achieved much in education in the first term, restoring front-line services with increased teacher numbers and investing in guidance officers in our schools. I have been proud to be part of a government that is putting teachers back to work and is investing in the future of our young people. I have visited Mount Gravatt State High School, Coorparoo Secondary College, Mount Gravatt State School and Greenslopes State School, and I have seen the students embracing the new language of coding and robotics.

Of course, I have also seen the support for the non-government school sector. I was so pleased to open the new administration and classroom block at St Joachim's school during its 80th year of serving our community, supported by our government. We are committed to delivering 3,700 new teachers over the next four years, putting a teacher aide into every prep classroom and providing funding for IT staff. Each of these shows that the Palaszczuk government backs our local schools.

When I left school I was lucky to find a job that I loved and that was in high demand. As I mark 30 years of nursing this year, I am so proud to be part of a government that has done so much for nurses and midwives—restoring graduate nursing positions, implementing nurse-to-patient and midwife-to-patient ratios, and establishing the nurse navigator position. Quite simply, when we look after nurses we look after patients.

I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to creating jobs. I see these jobs being created right across my electorate. I am thrilled to see participants in Skilling Queenslanders for Work at Vision Australia gain skills, confidence and jobs. People with low or no vision have very high unemployment rates, and this program is working to reduce this. This investment is a commitment by the Palaszczuk government to care about all people and try to help everyone to find a job. We certainly did not sack 14,000 public servants.

I am proud to be part of a government that created jobs by restoring front-line services. The infrastructure being built by this government, whether it be a stadium in Townsville or Cross River Rail, is creating jobs. The Back to Work boost is creating jobs in my community. The confidence and the certainty that government has created for business, when combined with the support being provided to small business with programs like the digital innovation and entrepreneurship grants, are creating more local jobs. Most recently, our state's success in securing the Land 400 armoured vehicle contract will see even more jobs created in Queensland. This shows what is possible when government works with local businesses and supports future opportunities.

I will continue to work hard for the people of Greenslopes as part of the Palaszczuk government. I will continue to work to improve public transport, back our local schools and create more local jobs. I make the commitment that I will continue to work with the people of Greenslopes to build our community.


Debate, on motion of Mr Kelly, adjourned.

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2180, on motion of Mr de Brenni—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.23 pm), continuing: It is noted that the proposed new mechanical services licence was initially based on the Victorian mechanical services licensing model but, in response to stakeholders' feedback about applying the Victorian model in Queensland, the mechanical services class was refined, although there are still some questions over the proposed approach and implementation.

In terms of the training and experience required to perform mechanical services work, it is noted that there was no consensus across the submissions received about the technical qualifications needed, and concerns about qualifications and training were understandably raised in the statement of reservation. It is noted with concern that the proposal includes transitional arrangements being handled by regulation. I refer to clause 174. It is stated that it is intended to be a temporary measure to facilitate a smooth transition to the new legislative scheme by enabling a regulation to be made to address any emerging or unforeseen issues. I intend to talk more about clause 174 during consideration in detail. I again express my concerns about clause 174.

Clause 174 is broad ranging and free ranging. I do not know that any legislation should contain something so flexible, open-ended and open to abuse. The government has had four years to put this legislation together, after taking office in 2015. In light of the last two major pieces of legislation, we have a lot of concern and a lot of questions about open-ended clauses that allow a minister and faceless people to act without the scrutiny of the parliamentary process and without review by this House.

The Queensland Law Society shares our concerns about clause 174 containing a transitional regulation-making power that allows the legislature to bypass the parliamentary process. It further said that any material that imposes obligations or affects the rights of individuals should be included in the primary legislation. For those who do not know, this type of clause is termed a Henry VIII clause, which is a clause of an act of parliament which enables the act to be expressly or impliedly amended by subordinate legislation or executive action, not legislative action.

Henry VIII clauses may be acceptable for use in the transitional arrangement of urgent bills when the regulation contains a sunset clause. While this regulation contains a sunset clause of 12 months, the bill comes into force on assent and the committee's comment advises that the bill does not appear urgent. It is not. This lazy approach is not supported in that it basically shifts the authority for making legislation away from the responsibility of elected officials and gives the power to faceless bureaucrats.

We see significant amendments today—a terrible example of why we have ongoing concerns with open-ended policy development being introduced into the building industry. Today's amendments dealing with the security-of-payments legislation are policy on the fly. Again, these proposals have not been scrutinised via the parliamentary committee process. There are significant items such as reducing the time frame for issuing a payment schedule from 20 days to 15 days.

We also see more work being introduced in relation to nonconforming building products. The changes expand those captured in the product supply chain to include architects and engineers, designers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers and installers. These important reforms to address nonconforming building products are being supported by both sides of the House.

The LNP has always been a strong supporter of trades and industry and recognises the major contribution that many small businesses in particular make to employment and economic growth in Queensland. It is not always about trade unions and it is not always about the big end of town. I think we in this place need to engage with those mum-and-dad businesses that are the backbone of Queensland. The LNP has a proud track record of working with industry in developing policy initiatives and framing legislation that will best suit the needs of business and the community. We certainly have not needed open-ended clauses to continue to ratify, fix and modify legislation on the run. We support the existing trade qualification of HVAC and refrigeration mechanics and think it is time it is a stand-alone occupational licence. In conclusion, I again flag that clause 174 will be discussed further during consideration in detail.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bennett, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Incident in Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I refer to the disruption of the Legislative Assembly at question time today by protestors. I wish to update the House as to action taken following this disruption. Protestors were removed from the precinct, police issued move-on directions for the next 72 hours and the Clerk has made a complaint against each protestor in accordance with section 51 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988. These matters will now be dealt with by the courts in due course. Directions to cease the online use of video material from this morning have been issued. If these directions are not followed, I will refer these matters to the Ethics Committee. Further investigations

about the organisation of the protest are also taking place. It is already established procedure to review security procedures and guidelines at Parliament House whenever an incident occurs. This review will now automatically occur with consultation with the Committee of the Legislative Assembly.

Finally, I want to remind all members about Ethics Committee report 41, *Report on a matter of privilege—matter concerning the disorderly conduct by members of parliament within the parliamentary precinct*. In that report the then ethics committee emphasised the committee's strong view that the appropriate action for members of parliament is to dissuade people from disorderly conduct rather than participating in or leading that disorderly conduct. The committee said that it was—

... the role of a member of Parliament to represent their constituents by using the power of their oratory in the House, not to participate in disorderly acts within the Parliamentary precinct.

According to the then ethics committee—

Members are to strive at all times to conduct themselves in a manner which will tend to maintain and strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the integrity of Parliament and avoid any action which may diminish its standing, authority or dignity.


Honourable members, I take a very dim view of any members who aid, abet, encourage or congratulate the inappropriate behaviour such as that which occurred this morning.

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2208, on motion of Mr de Brenni—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.31 pm): Today I rise to make a contribution to the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018 which the Transport and Public Works Committee, the committee I chair, has reported to the House on. This bill was previously introduced in the 55th Parliament and work started under the previous committee I chaired, the Public Works and Utilities Committee. The bill lapsed when the previous parliament finished. The new bill has picked up on some of that hard work and made our committee's work somewhat easier, which was good.

The objectives of this bill are to: establish an up-to-date, simplified and flexible legislative framework for plumbing and drainage that will be clear and simple for the end user while ensuring both public health and the environment are protected and will meet industry and community expectations over the next decade; provide authority to make plumbing regulation that will be simpler to use, will reduce the regulatory burden on consumers, industry and local government and seeks to improve regulatory requirements for obtaining approvals for plumbing and drainage work; provide authority for the making of an up-to-date plumbing code that will include all plumbing standards which are required to vary and complement national plumbing standards; and help to protect public health and safety through the regulation of mechanical services work, including medical gas work, under the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991.

It is the mechanical service licence that I wanted to talk about. As was tragically shown in New South Wales in mid-2016, the incorrect installation of medical gas can have fatal consequences. The outcome of the terrible mix-up of medical gas which allowed nitrous oxide to be administered by mistake was that one infant died and another suffered permanent brain damage. While Queensland's hospitals and health facilities have procedures to ensure that medical gas systems operate as they should, no formal licensing requirements exist. The introduction of a new mechanical services licence will enhance the health and safety of Queenslanders by ensuring that the individuals doing this work are suitably qualified. Mechanical services work also involves the construction, installation, maintenance or testing of mechanical heating or cooling systems in a building. Work of this nature not done properly can give rise to serious public safety risks by creating environments conducive to legionella.

These mechanical services reforms have been shaped and refined by a substantial amount of industry and community feedback. This consultation however did identify some broad concerns, as has been mentioned previously, if we base this licence purely on the Victorian model where only plumbers can do this work. At the public hearing Mr Graham MacKrill, the Executive Director from the Queensland and New South Wales Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Association, said—

Mechanical services plumbing is a highly specialised form of air-conditioning work in refrigeration and air conditioning, and air-conditioning technicians also function in that space of the whole of the trade. We have mechanical services plumbing, then we also have refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians working in that space and we would also be advocating to work towards having refrigeration and air-conditioning mechanics occupationally licensed at some stage in the future.

As members can see, translating this model to Queensland may have resulted in air-conditioning and refrigeration contractors being displaced. Our government listened to this feedback and the new mechanical services licence will avoid this. As has been mentioned previously, there was a fair bit of confusion and concern from the refrigeration industry about small split system air conditioning installations. While this was outside the scope of the bill, at the public hearing Ms Kim Limburg, CEO of the Australian Refrigeration Mechanics Association, put it well in terms of one of the concerns she had about the work being unlicensed. She said—

From the moment the system is installed by an unskilled worker—I want to touch on the star rating. As consumers, we will go to a Harvey Norman or a Good Guys or whatever and say, ‘Okay, that has a three- or four-star rating on the split system’. The problem is that that only applies while it is sitting on the shelf. When that system is installed, in this situation, we have as high as 75 per cent split-system air conditioners not operating efficiently, because that is how many are no longer being installed by the trade qualified.

With a cert II split installer’s licence, it is a refrigerant handling licence. This is where there is a great deal of confusion. It is not an actual technical competency. A split installer will install that split system and we can pretty much guarantee that it will not be operating to its design parameters, so the consumer is paying a hell of a lot more in power.

They are her words, not mine. She continues—

That is a concern for us.

As an advocate for trades, I have to say that I do like trade qualified work and we do listen. The committee recommended to the minister that he consider investigating ways to help ensure the safety of contractors when installing and working with refrigeration fluids and single head split systems. It is very pleasing that the minister has taken this on board and will carry out these investigations. Because of these concerns, the amendments will allow the mechanical service licence to be divided into classes that recognise the specialised trades that perform this work.


Stakeholders have already provided feedback through the parliamentary committee process about the technical qualifications and scopes of work that should be set by regulation. These details will be finalised by closely consulting with industry. The Queensland Building and Construction Commission will administer the licence which will include being able to take action against individuals who perform defective work or operate unlicensed.

I want to touch on the plumbing and drainage side as well. This bill also responds to the growing and changing needs of the construction industry and will establish a shorter application system which will reduce by half the current time frame for local governments to approve standard commercial applications. It will go from 20 business days down to 10 business days. There has been overwhelming support for this change from the building and plumbing industries which will result in a reduction in holding costs for large and complex construction projects.

This will not only benefit hardworking plumbers and drainers but also provide benefits to all trades including carpenters, tilers, electricians and bricklayers who can now complete more work each calendar year. All Queenslanders can take comfort that there will be no change to the existing inspection process as a result of this reform, as all stages of plumbing and drainage work which require a permit will continue to be inspected by local government inspectors to ensure that compliance with the plumbing laws and codes is maintained.

I thank the members of the Transport and Public Works Committee for their bipartisan work on this bill. It was good to sit down and talk through the issues. We had some good conversations and input. At one stage some of the members—and I will not name them—went into car air conditioning. We had some pretty good chats about this bill. I thank the deputy chair, the member for Hervey Bay; the member for Aspley; the member for Bundamba; the member for Callide; and the member for Traeger. I also thank our hardworking secretariat, Deb, Margaret, Mishelle and Lyn, for helping to steer the ship when things became a little off track.

I also thank all of those who provided submissions to the parliamentary committee and attended the public hearing. It was really good to hear particularly from some of those fridges. Even though what they had to say was outside the scope of the bill, we took what they said on board, because they had some really genuine concerns. It is always good to work on legislation that has the overwhelming support of the industry and the community. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.40 pm): I would like to make a contribution to the debate on this bill. I would like to thank Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah; Colin Boyce, the member for Callide; Robbie Katter, Bart Mellish and also Jo-Ann Miller—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Hervey Bay, although you are being very cordial, you need to refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr SORENSEN: I would like to thank the 65 people who made submissions to the bill. I would also like to thank all of those who came along to be witnesses at the public hearing on 19 March. They included members of the Queensland Law Society, the Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Association and the Australian Refrigeration Mechanics Association. The previous speaker referred to the air-conditioning people, who were very concerned about some issues relating to gases that were outside the scope of the bill. When gases come under pressure the situation can be very dangerous, especially when you have amateurs putting together pipes. The committee also learned that water in air-conditioning units makes a big difference as well. When you are a member of a committee, you learn a lot about technical matters.


The Logan City Council made a submission to the committee. Councils have a big responsibility for plumbing and drainage matters and provide services such as water harvesting and collecting, including, for example, water storage, groundwater extraction, the replenishment of river water, the transmission of water, the reticulation of water, drainage, stormwater drainage, water treatment and recycling, especially in relation to greywater tanks, which can create a real environmental hazard. When I was a member of the council I had the experience of blue-green algae from sewer water running into a dam, which is very dangerous as it kills animals that drink that water. At that time a lady was using the water from the dam and became sick also. She had to be hospitalised, because blue-green algae can affect people's livers.

The committee made the following three recommendations: that the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018 be passed, that the minister consider investigating ways to help ensure the safety of contractors when installing and working with refrigeration fluids and single-head split systems, and that the minister provide an explanation of what is meant by the acronym MPU by way of clarification during the second reading of the bill.

On 15 February, the Plumbing and Drainage Bill was introduced into the House and referred to the committee, which was to report back to the House on 9 April. This bill has been sitting around for a while. People who are relying on this bill to be passed, especially those who made submissions to the committee on the bill, have been sitting around waiting for a while and wondering what is happening. They have been waiting anxiously and asking when the bill is going to be passed. It is good that we are finally debating it today.

During its consideration of the bill the committee discussed the safety of various gases. We saw what happened in New South Wales when the wrong pipes were connected. We asked whether there should be different coloured pipes, or there should be different connections. For example, some gas connections have a left-hand thread. The committee had a lot of discussion about how we could make those connections safer in the future. As we know, some of these gases can be very dangerous when pipes are not fitted correctly. It is not like hooking up two water mains. People have to be trained to make sure that they hook up things the right way, that they understand gas pressures. This bill is not about just putting together a few plumbing pipes; it covers all aspects of plumbing and drainage.

I know that we have a very short time in which to debate this bill. A lot of members would have liked to speak to this bill. I am concerned that there are 42 pages of amendments to the bill. That seems to be a lot of changes to one bill that has been around for some time. It was introduced in the last parliament and then it was introduced into this parliament. It is pretty difficult to get your head around 42 pages of amendments. We have sat in this parliament and debated changes to a bill for more than two or three hours. We have only four hours in which to debate this bill. I find that incredible. I hope this situation does not continue. We do not have time to debate all of these amendments to this bill.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018, and specifically about the range of measures that are contained within it. Firstly, I would like to thank the committee members who looked at the bill: the chair, the member for Kurwongbah; the member for Bundamba; the opposition members, the members for Callide and Hervey Bay; and the member for Traeger from the crossbench. I thank the minister for his help along the way, all the submitters to this inquiry and the witnesses who attended at the hearings that were held. I also thank the committee staff, who did a great job.

I want to speak in particular about the introduction of a new occupational licence for mechanical services work, which is contained in the bill. The new licence class for mechanical services will improve the industry standard of work by ensuring that work is carried out by an appropriately qualified individual. The nature and scope of mechanical services work is often misunderstood. In short, this important trade involves the construction, installation, maintenance or testing of mechanical heating or cooling systems in a building. Noncompliant mechanical services work can pose a serious public safety risk by creating an environment that is conducive to legionella, for example.

The QBCC currently regulates some aspects of mechanical services work through its existing contractor licences—for example, individuals and companies must be licensed to carry out air-conditioning and refrigeration work valued at over \$3,300—but more can be done to protect the health and safety of the community. The new occupational licence means that mechanical services work of any value must be carried out by a licensed and qualified individual. Introducing an occupational licence for mechanical services work aligns with other high-risk trades such as plumbing and fire protection. This occupational licence targets large or public buildings such as commercial retail centres and residential apartment blocks where complex heating, cooling and ventilation systems present a particular risk.

I will make a few points with regard to the mechanical services licence. The Queensland model has been refined based on the results of the Queensland Building Plan consultation. This consultation was based on the Victorian model and this was not widely supported. The proposed mechanical services framework includes four classes of licence which recognise the different streams of mechanical services. The technical qualifications for each licence class will reflect the specialist skills needed for the streams of work.

Why is there a need for four mechanical services licence classes? Like other trade work, mechanical services has various streams of specialised work, for example, air-conditioning or plumbing work associated with cooling and heating systems. Medical gas is also considered a specialised stream, which I will refer to a bit later. It is important that people carrying out this work have the correct skills and qualifications so that the licence classes recognise the need for these tradespeople to be licensed and skilled to the appropriate level.

The amendments allow the licence to be divided into classes, as I mentioned, that will be set by regulation. This is to capture the full range of specialised trades that currently do mechanical services work. Formal training requirements will apply to the licence classes to ensure that individuals are suitably qualified. The bill will ensure that critical mechanical services work continues to be carried out by the right people with the right qualifications. As mentioned, the introduction of a mechanical services licence which will regulate medical gas work is to be commended.

The incorrect installation of medical gas can have fatal consequences which was tragically demonstrated in New South Wales in 2016. One infant died and another suffered permanent brain damage because of nitrous oxide being administered instead of oxygen. While there are current procedures in place in Queensland hospitals and health facilities to ensure that medical gas systems operate as they should, no formal licensing requirements exist. The introduction of a new mechanical services licence will ensure the health and safety of Queenslanders by ensuring that the individuals doing this work are suitably qualified specifically for the class of medical gas.

More broadly, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, as the state's building industry regulator, will administer the new licence. This includes taking action against individuals who operate unlicensed or perform defective medical gas work. It is great to have a tough cop on the beat. The bill provides strong penalties for unlawfully carrying out mechanical services work, including escalating penalties for repeat offenders. The first instance will incur the current penalty of 250 penalty units. A subsequent offence increases to a maximum of 300 penalty units and third and subsequent offences will be 350 penalty units or a year's imprisonment. This offence is necessary due to the significant health and safety risks that may arise when mechanical services work is carried out by unlicensed and unqualified individuals. These penalties align with the existing provisions under the QBCC Act 1991 and will send a strong message to the industry and the community that acting unlicensed will not be tolerated.

The medical gas licence class will strengthen the existing regulatory framework and help safeguard our loved ones when they need it most. Currently, medical gas is not regulated at contract or occupational level, nor is high-risk work that is undertaken at occupational level. This new licence class intends to streamline present licensing and create new licences to place them into the one licence class. This will ensure that people undertaking the work have the appropriate skills and qualifications.

Speaking more broadly, industry will be allocated adequate time to prepare and transition into the new licensing requirements for mechanical services. A significant amount of consultation has been undertaken to contribute to the reforms in this bill. As the minister mentioned earlier, there were roadshows, round tables, information sessions and, of course, committee hearings. The new plumbing laws represent working with industry, local government, licensees and the community over a three-year period to develop a stronger, modern and flexible regulatory framework. Throughout this time there has been strong stakeholder support for the reforms which we saw through the submissions and through the hearings.

The mechanical services reforms have also been shaped and refined as a result of industry and community feedback. The introduction of a mechanical services licence was included in the Queensland Building Plan which was the subject of significant statewide consultation from November 2016 to March 2017. This consultation at the time identified some broad concerns about basing the mechanical services licence on the Victorian model, as I mentioned earlier, where only plumbers can do this work. Translating this model to Queensland may have resulted in air-conditioning and refrigeration contractors being displaced. The government listened to this feedback and the new mechanical services licence will avoid this. Rather, the amendments allow the licence to be divided into classes that recognise the specialised trades that perform this work. Stakeholders provided this feedback, through the parliamentary committee process, about the technical qualifications and scopes of work that should be set by regulation. This detail will be finalised in close consultation with industry going forward.


For current licensees, the bill includes transitional provisions aimed at minimising disruption to their businesses by recognising their existing qualifications and experience. The transitional period will also allow people who are currently working unlicensed, including employees of a contractor licensee, time to complete the necessary qualifications or demonstrate that they have the appropriate skills and experience to obtain a licence. The mechanical services licence reforms will enhance the health and safety of the community while still providing flexibility to ensure industry is prepared for the changes and can move seamlessly to the new licence.

Speaking briefly about the provisions in the bill regarding WaterMark, the bill contains clauses to prohibit plumbing products, including WaterMark products, if they are found to be defective or not fit for purpose. This is an important extra safety net as it provides increased protection for all Queenslanders. Clauses in the bill address concerns around the implementation of the national WaterMark Certification Scheme for plumbing products. These WaterMark products can be residential or commercial and can vary in size from small scale to entire bathrooms, for example.

On the committee we heard plenty of feedback, including around the whole bathroom models and potential issues with those. It is great that these provisions are in the bill where concerns about defective products can be addressed. The WaterMark Certification Scheme is a national scheme for plumbing and drainage products to ensure that they are fit for purpose and appropriately authorised for use in plumbing and drainage installations. It is good that this bill has this extra level of protection where the state government is able to act swiftly to prohibit plumbing products, including WaterMark products, from being installed where they are found to be defective or pose a public health risk.

It is intended that the plumbing regulation will prohibit the installation of identified WaterMark products that are deemed unsuitable for installation. This will provide the flexibility to adjust the adoption of the WaterMark scheme through an amendment to the regulation. The department has indicated during inquiry hearings that the power to prohibit a plumbing product that has WaterMark certification will be used sparingly and as a last resort, for example where delays in the national process have the potential to cause significant health and safety risks to the Queensland community. Many submitters and witnesses to the inquiry on the bill discussed issues and potential issues with WaterMark products. These measures in the bill will be beneficial for industry and the broader public.

In terms of the recommendations of the committee, recommendation 1 was that the Plumbing and Drainage Bill be passed. It is great to see that recommendation supported by all sides. Recommendation 2 was that the minister consider investigating ways to help ensure the safety of contractors when installing or working with refrigeration fluids and single-head split systems, which the minister addressed earlier. Finally, the committee recommended that the minister provide an explanation of what is meant by the acronym MPU by way of clarification during the second reading of the bill, which I understand the minister did earlier. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (4.57 pm): I rise today to make a contribution to the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow members and in particular Deb Jeffrey and her secretariat for their help and guidance. Whilst we have generally supported the passage of this bill, there are a number of issues that we have concerns about. We have submitted a statement of reservation in relation to the Plumbing and Drainage Bill and it covers several areas which I will expand on.

We believe that the refrigeration and air-conditioning, RAC, industry should have a separate occupational licence. It was noted in submissions that the Australian Refrigeration Mechanics Association expressed strong views on the consultation process with the HVAC&R industry on the new mechanical services occupational licence. The deliberate exclusion of consultation with the heating,

ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration industries people and a total disregard of a specialist field is indicative of the plumbing industry's attempt to take ownership of the HVAC&R industry through the union controlled plumbing industry. The Australian Refrigeration Association, the ARA, stated that the bill fails to provide the appropriate legislation to protect the HVAC&R industry and consumers with regulations and appropriate trade licences.

It is most important that industry qualifications are uniform across-the-board. Whilst this extends outside the scope of the bill, it is very important that it be recognised that, for example, plumbers, drainers and electricians who wish to be qualified to carry out the work of the refrigeration industry complete the same qualification course. The proverbial two-day course is not adequate, as the installation and maintenance of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment by inexperienced and unqualified people has the potential to seriously maim and/or be lethal.


I have had many years of practical experience servicing and maintaining air-conditioning systems in my own fleet of vehicles and heavy machinery, including trucks, tractors and earth-moving equipment. I have become acutely aware of what can happen when dealing with air-conditioning gases under pressure. Automotive air conditioning differs greatly from air-conditioning systems used in houses and buildings; however, the basic principles to make them work are very similar. I cannot argue strongly enough that people who are servicing and/or installing those systems are properly trained and know intimately what they are doing, otherwise the consequences can be catastrophic and/or lethal. That is why it is most important that consultation between the department and the industry ensures agreement across the industry as to the suitability of training outcomes and requirements.

As stated in our statement of reservation, we would like the minister to confirm that with the fitting of gas connections it be mandatory for installers to certify connections. We do not want a repeat of what we saw in one hospital, where lives were lost and damage suffered because the wrong medical gas was administered through what was supposed to be the correct outlet.

The Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018 addresses the need for the prohibition of WaterMark products by regulation. This relates to products that are considered to be unsuitable or unsafe despite their WaterMark certification, thus removing the likelihood of inferior products being installed by relevant industry qualified people. In this way, the consumer will not suffer the consequences of having inferior plumbing products, in particular, installed in their homes and businesses.

In our statement of reservation we referred to the need for flexibility for local authorities, particularly in rural Queensland, with regard to the testing regime for greywater coming out of septic tanks. In rural Queensland, many residences and businesses are unsewered in local government areas. Practical outcomes would be achieved if local government authorities, particularly in rural and remote Queensland, had some flexibility as to how the monitoring of greywater under the act is applied. This is part of our statement of reservation and has relevance to clause 154(2), which provides a non-exhaustive list of matters about which a guideline can be issued and, in particular, how the local governments are to administer the act.

Finally, I comment on the amendments that have been tabled here today. As the member for Hervey Bay has pointed out, they are quite extensive and I do not believe we have had adequate time to consider these things. The bill was introduced on 15 February. The committee report was tabled on 9 April. It is now September. That highlights the fact that the House is not getting through its business. I make that point.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.03 pm): I rise to speak briefly on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill. I applaud the Palaszczuk government's commitment to strengthening the plumbing and drainage industry in Queensland. Queensland should be the envy of other states and territories, as it maintains a very high standard for public health and safety and protection of the environment through its plumbing and drainage regulatory framework. This bill introduces the third instalment of reforms under the Palaszczuk government's Queensland Building Plan and is the result of this government's consultative and collaborative approach with industry. The bill further delivers on our commitment by introducing a new suite of plumbing laws, which includes a modernised act and provides for a new regulation and a revised Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code.

Strong plumbing and drainage laws that protect the health and safety of Queenslanders are what this is all about. We have responded to calls for a reduction in the regulatory burden. We have responded to the industry's concerns that the laws were difficult to understand. The bill has been revised and modernised to make it easier for industry, licensees and consumers to interpret and implement. By increasing the practitioner's understanding of the rules, an increase in compliance is expected to be

achieved. As a consultative government, we have responded to calls to enhance protections for consumers by introducing a stronger penalty framework to increase deterrents for performing unlicensed and noncompliant work.

As stated by the minister, we not only met the standard; we set the standard and this bill is a testament to that. Once again we lead the nation. This bill provides for the government to act swiftly to prohibit any plumbing product, including WaterMark products, if they are found to be defective, not fit for purpose or if they pose a public health risk. Complacency is not an option.

Another critical aspect of the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018 is the introduction of a new approval process that will result in savings in cost and time for the majority of residential homes. I applaud that the bill will provide for the regulation to prescribe a new fast-track approval process that will reduce the time frame from the existing 20 days to two business days for local governments to process lower risk applications.

The bill speaks to the government's ongoing commitment to leaving no stone unturned when it comes to reducing the cost of living for Queenslanders. While the possible savings that this reform brings may not seem considerable to the opposition, we know that they will make a difference to the many Queenslanders who have realised the dream of home ownership and save them several hundred dollars. Specifically, Queensland home owners could see a saving of approximately \$640 in holding costs by being able to commence plumbing work 18 days earlier for an indicative house block costing \$255,000.

The new fast-track permit system builds upon the experience of several local governments, including the Brisbane City Council, the Logan City Council and the Moreton Bay Regional Council, which have already implemented fast-track models for domestic dwellings that are considered low risk. This government wants the possible savings being reported by those local governments for their ratepayers made available to all local governments so that all Queenslanders can benefit. This is a win-win situation for industry, licensees and consumers, as those savings will not negatively impact on safety standards. All permit work will continue to be inspected by local government to ensure that the health and safety of the community and the environment is maintained. No longer will the wait for a plumbing and drainage approval hold up the construction of a new home.

The new permit approval process legislated in the Plumbing and Drainage Bill will provide savings in cost and time for the construction industry and its employees. The bill recognises the importance of the construction industry for the Queensland economy. The legislation will respond to the growing and changing needs of the construction industry by establishing a new compressed application system that will reduce by half the current time frame for local governments to approve standard commercial applications from 20 business days to 10.

The building and plumbing industry has expressed overwhelming support for that cost and timesaving initiative, which will result in a reduction in holding costs for large and complex construction projects. The reform will allow workers and their employees to commence and finish large construction projects faster than ever before. Not only will that benefit hardworking plumbers and drainers; it will provide benefits to all tradies, including carpenters, tilers, electricians and bricklayers who can now complete more work every calendar year.

All Queenslanders can take comfort that there will be no change to the existing inspection process as a result of the reform. All stages of plumbing and drainage work which require a permit will continue to be inspected by local government inspectors to ensure compliance with the plumbing laws and codes. This bill ensures that the high standard of plumbing and drainage work in Queensland will not only be maintained but strengthened.

Another important feature of the bill is the introduction of provisions to clarify the licensing requirements where an occupational licensee, such as plumber, also holds a contractor's licence. In 2014 the functions for licensing, compliance and disciplinary action relating to plumbers and drainers were transferred from the Department of Housing and Public Works to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, the QBCC. At the time, it was intended that the licensees would benefit from only having to pay for one licence. There was overwhelming support for this initiative across the plumbing and drainage industry.


To give effect to the policy intention, the QBCC issued pro rata refunds to licensees who held both a five-year occupational licence as well as a trade contractor's licence. In addition, the QBCC did not enforce the requirement for plumbing and drainage trade contractors to also hold an occupational licence. However, legislative amendments were not made at that time to formalise the decision.

This bill will provide that contractor licensees who did not hold an occupational licence on or before 10 November 2014 are taken to have held the occupational licence while they held that contractor's licence. This amendment is required to overcome a legacy issue of the former Newman government. The amendment will commence on proclamation to ensure the earliest application of the retrospective benefits to licensees in line with the government's election commitment.

I asked to speak on this bill because I have constituents who have been adversely affected by the loophole that we are moving to close today. I am the proud member for Mount Ommaney, an innovation hub right in the heart of south-west Brisbane. A few months ago a local plumber met with me about this very issue. He lives locally and his business employs 10 people. He is one of the many small businesses that form the backbone and spine of our Queensland economy. I promised to raise this issue with the minister on his behalf.

As a former business manager I am incredibly passionate about making sure our small businesses have the opportunity to be innovative and expand with confidence and have the legislative framework that supports them. I place on record my thanks to the minister and his team for being so helpful in assisting me to navigate this issue on behalf of my constituent. I was absolutely thrilled to be given the opportunity to speak on this legislation today because I owe it not just to this particular constituent but to all of the hardworking small business owners in Queensland to ensure that they are operating their businesses with the support of the Palaszczuk government. Today that means closing this loophole.

I am incredibly proud to support this legislation because I know it is going to make a difference in my community—a difference to the small business owners and mums and dads building their first home and those maybe building their second home. At the end of the day, what each and every one of us in this House is here to do is improve the lives of our community. That is what this legislation does. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.13 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018. I am a member of the committee that considered the bill. I pay credit to the chair and the committee secretariat. I think the inquiry was conducted well. We were exposed to a diverse range of contributors in the public hearings. They certainly brought out a lot of the technical issues that are very difficult to get one's head around at times. There was a divergence of views on some of the technical issues. Both sides of the committee did their best to work through those.

I understand the intent of the bill and also understand what the minister is trying to achieve. I believe the intent is good. It was very clear from the contributions made in the hearings that this is a specialised field with dire consequences. We heard evidence of a plumber in Nambour who in 2009 tragically lost his life after cutting through a high-pressure refrigerative gas line. We also heard evidence of a baby tragically killed due to the wrong line being fitted and it delivering nitrous oxide instead of oxygen. We want to make sure that people are trained and certified when it comes to handling these things.

At the other end of the spectrum we had representatives from the ARMA talk about the encroachment on their business or trade. They outlined how they have a four-year training period compared to the other disciplines which have three years. That contributed to a lot of rigour around the bill.

I took note of the issues around WaterMark products. It is an important safety net. I make the observation that this inadvertently maintains some of the diminishing manufacturing base in Australia by making it harder to bring in bathroom pods. I appreciate what the minister has done in that regard.

Training and competency are paramount in the industry. I think there has been an attempt to cover that area. I appreciate recommendation No. 2 in the committee's report as it is consistent with my statement of reservation. It reads—

The committee recommends the Minister consider investigating ways to help ensure the safety of contractors when installing and working with refrigeration fluids and single head split systems.

It would be appreciated if the minister would consider that.


When I first saw the bill I was concerned about the impact of more red tape and regulation, particularly in rural areas where training can be a lot more costly if people have to fly apprentices and trainees to the coast on the expensive Qantas flights we have. Safety and training comes at a cost.

I appreciate the changes made to mechanical services licence class. My understanding is that it only applies to above class 1A buildings so it does not impact the refrigeration area. I acknowledge what the minister has said. I think it went some way to addressing some of those contributions.

I was particularly grateful to Kim Limburg from the ARMA. She was very passionate about her cause and protecting the interests of her members. She brought a lot of issues to light.

In terms of the amendments around subcontractors, I do not have a big issue with those. In the three terms I have been in here it has happened a lot that amendments are thrown in. I think what the minister has done around subcontractors is excellent. I commend him for his push in this area. Changing the 25 days to 15 days in the progress schedule is all good. I think he has done a good job in that area.

They are my main concerns. The opposition raised some good points about greywater in their statement of reservation. Once again, I think the committee did a pretty comprehensive job of picking up on most of the issues.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.18 pm): I would like to contribute to the debate on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018. There is nothing more important than the role played by our plumbers in public and environmental safety than clean potable water and an efficient sewage system. I come from a family of plumbers. My father and my nephew are very fine tradespeople. I am pleased to see that there are many young women in my area taking up the trade as well. When people travel overseas they certainly appreciate our clean and efficient services. We need to ensure that our plumbers and drainers are suitably qualified and the regulations for their industry support rather than hinder their work.

There were some issues raised in my community regarding the mechanical services reforms. I would like to thank Kim Willson for his contribution to the consultation process. The introduction of a mechanical services licence was included in the Queensland Building Plan, which was the subject of significant statewide consultation from November 2016 to March 2017. The consultation identified some broad concerns about the mechanical services licence based on the Victorian model, as we have heard from others, where only plumbers can do this work. Translating this model to Queensland may have resulted in air-conditioning and refrigeration contractors being displaced, and that is where the issues were raised in my community.

The government has listened to this feedback and a new mechanical services licence will avoid this. Rather, the amendments will allow the licence to be divided into classes that recognise the specialised trades that perform this work. Stakeholders have already provided feedback through the parliamentary committee process about the technical qualifications and scopes of work that should be set out by regulation. This detail will be finalised in close consultation with industry which those in my community are looking forward to.

For current licensees, the bill includes transitional provisions aimed at minimising disruption to their businesses by recognising their existing qualifications and experience. The transitional period will also allow people who are currently working unlicensed, including employees of contractor licensees, time to complete the necessary qualifications or demonstrate that they have the appropriate skills and experience to obtain a licence. The mechanical services licence reforms will enhance the health and safety of the community while providing flexibility to ensure the industry is prepared for the changes and it can move on seamlessly to the new licence.

There has been wideranging consultation on this bill to ensure that we get it right. We want to maintain being in front of all of the other states and territories by having the best and strongest regulations in Australia. Our new suite of plumbing laws will include a modernised act that provides for a new regulation and a revised Queensland Plumbing and Wastewater Code and will ensure that we remain at the peak of leading regulation.

We do not usually spend too much time thinking about plumbing regulations in our lives until there is a problem with water quality or a sewerage backup. We need to let our tradespeople get on with the job. That is why this bill reduces and addresses concerns where the laws were difficult to understand. This bill has been revised and modernised so it is easier to understand. When everyone understands their responsibility, there is an expectation that compliance will also increase—better services for all. The bill increases the ease of use of tradespeople. It also increase protections for consumers. This is a real win-win for the industry. When consumers want to begin construction, they do not want to be held up with time delays with the approvals process. As we often hear, 'Time is money.'

There has been overwhelming support from industry for the cost savings that are contained in this bill. This bill will reduce the process and fast-track a new approval process that will reduce the existing 20 days down to two business days. This is good news for local governments like those in my region—the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday regional councils. It is important to get low-risk applications processed in a timely manner.

In my region developers and home owners are beginning to dip their toe into the construction of new homes. We have had a construction drought for the last five years. This bill is timely for my region and ongoing economic development. For many Queenslanders building a home and saving a couple of hundred dollars in any area of construction makes a big difference to their build. I have been told that Queensland home owners could see a saving of approximately up to \$640 in holding costs. This is fantastic for home owners.

Some of the large South-East Queensland local government authorities have already reported savings to consumers through fast-tracking of permits. I am looking forward to seeing fast-tracked permits in the regions to ensure home owners and consumers in my region enjoy the same savings. Our local authorities currently inspect plumbing and drainage work and will continue in this role to ensure the quality of work for the community and for environmental safety. This will be a new era for home builders in Queensland. Their homes will not be held up waiting for permits.

We all know how important it is to have a regulated, streamlined process so our tradies can get on with the job. Plumbing and drainage is a highly skilled profession. On those DIY shows you never see people rolling up their sleeves and doing their own plumbing. That is why we can have confidence in our ability to turn on the tap and get potable water. Having quality, well-trained tradies improves the quality of work for all trades. Having qualified tradies makes it easier for the tilers, painters, carpenters and electricians who have to work alongside them.

This bill enhances protection for the community against those who show disregard for the safety of our community and the environment at large. I support increased penalties for performing unlicensed plumbing work, particularly for offences that endanger public health and safety. Under this new framework, a first offence for unlicensed plumbing work will incur a maximum penalty of 250 penalty units or \$31,538. Second offences will incur up to 300 penalty units or \$37,845. Persistent offenders who are convicted three or more times will be liable for 350 penalty units or \$44,153. This sliding scale responds to feedback from industry that unlicensed people continuously flout the current laws and perform unsafe and dangerous work without a licence.

When tradespeople select their products to complete a job, we want them and consumers to have confidence in those products. Consumers and tradespeople need to be confident that the products on the market will withstand everyday use. When a plumbing product fails, the damage to households and other buildings can be catastrophic, with damage to cabinetry, floor coverings, internal walls and the loss of personal items due to water damage. The reputation of a company's brand does not matter. We expect a high standard for all products or they will be taken off the shelf if they do not meet the standard.

I would like to commend the committee, the minister and the department for their work on this important bill for the health and safety of all Queenslanders. This bill reflects that we are listening to Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Gilbert, adjourned.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (CLEARING CODES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT REGULATION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (5.28 pm): I move—

That the Vegetation Management (Clearing Codes) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018, subordinate legislation No. 24 of 2018, tabled in the House on 20 March 2018, be disallowed.

I move this disallowance motion because what this Labor government is doing to our farmers is appalling. The first objective of the Vegetation Management (Clearing Codes) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2018 was to give effect to the new version of the State Development Assessment Provisions with amendments to 'State code 16: Native vegetation clearing' to reflect the accepted development vegetation clearing codes 'managing thickened vegetation' and 'managing fodder harvesting' and other minor amendments to provisions of other state codes.

The second objective was to give effect to the remade accepted development vegetation clearing codes; namely, managing thickened vegetation, managing fodder harvesting and managing category C regrowth vegetation.

These regulations, if they were to come into effect, would have a devastating impact on our farmers and the agricultural sector in general. There are good and valid reasons for moving this disallowance motion. First and foremost, unlike those members opposite, LNP members have actually been out talking to our farmers to find out how these new regulations will impact upon them, and it is not a pretty story.

Last week with the member for Warrego, I visited Charleville where I met and spoke with around 50 farmers about the impact these regulations will have on their livelihood. I actually took the time to inspect their properties and view firsthand livestock feeding on mulga which had been harvested that morning. The minister can put all the spin he likes on these regulations, but let me say unequivocally here tonight that they do nothing but add a mountain of bureaucratic bullshit to a process that should be simple and straightforward.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order!

Mr LAST: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burdekin, if you use language like that again, you will be warned under the standing orders.

Mr LAST: They add bureaucratic red tape to a process that should be simple and straightforward. Our farmers in these drought-affected areas have their backs to the wall, and they are stressed enough without having to wade through a laborious and onerous approval process to obtain a permit to harvest mulga.

There is not a one-size-fits-all when it comes to mulga harvesting, and I want to outline the impracticality of the new regulations. The fodder code limits fodder harvesting in category B areas to 500 hectares per notification. However, the 500 hectares covers both the actual harvested area and the associated retained area, so for each approved 500 hectares, farmers are only harvesting less than half that area. That is right. For every 50-metre strip harvested, a 75-metre strip of retained vegetation is required to be left either side of the cleared strip of mulga. Then, to add insult to injury, fodder harvesting must not occur in vegetation that has been harvested in the last 10 years, and even then the retention areas must contain fodder species with an average height of at least four metres.

We start to appreciate how difficult it has become to meet the requirements of this new legislation. One farmer said to me last week, 'With the 500 hectare limits and strip requirements it is geometrically and practically impossible to keep feed up to 750 to 1,000 head, let alone meet the time and compliance requirements of renotifying every fortnight or less, with five hours spent in the office and one to two hours doing GPS coordinates.'

In addition, 500 hectares per lot discriminates against those graziers with large properties. What this means is that the 500 hectare limit per application applies equally to blocks of 80,000 hectares as it does to a 3,000 hectare block. If that is extrapolated to the numbers of cattle, it can mean a difference of several thousand head that graziers are trying to keep alive on a daily basis. Let me tell members that the logistics of trying to keep alive several thousand head of cattle are enormous. If our farmers destock, they face selling cattle on a depressed market. Of course, when the season breaks, they will be forced to purchase replacement stock at significantly higher prices—hence, the need to retain their stock through this drought.

As was pointed out to me last week in Charleville, by harvesting in strips, cattle are forced to walk longer distances back to water. In times of drought, farmers do not want their cattle walking any further than about two to three kilometres to access water, so clearing in strips and leaving retained areas means they are pushing stock further away from watering points, which then forces the grazer to incur additional costs running poly pipe and installing troughs. In the past, it was financially viable to pipe water for stock, but with these rules it is impossible, especially for distributing grazing pressure across a paddock. A mobile water truck is too hard and too expensive to operate, and that is the practicality.

Mulga is a shrub that can grow up to 15 metres high, with the leaves providing a valuable fodder source, particularly in times of drought, as they are palatable to stock and provide up to 12 per cent crude protein. As they say, there is a bale of hay in every tree. If mulga is not controlled, it will grow so dense that stock will not be able to walk through it, let alone feed on it. As one grazier said to me last week in Charleville, 'If you leave mulga untouched, it will create a perpetual drought because grass won't grow beneath the canopy and as a consequence livestock won't have anything to eat.'

I actually inspected a stand of virgin mulga country which locals refer to as the dead zone. They call it this because there are no wallabies, lizards, bilbies, birds or other wildlife in this area because the mulga is so dense that it has choked out all other forms of vegetation, including grass. When you walk into this dead zone, it is completely silent because nothing lives there. One grazier said—

Since the wool floor price collapsed in the mid 1990's and sheep left, wild dog numbers have increased dramatically, even the goats have depleted. This has let young mulga regrowth virtually take over all the red country that already didn't have older grown mulga on it. So now we are heading towards a mono-culture of pure mulga. There isn't a blade of grass left and a lot of country won't have the grass it had originally because of the mulga density.

The use of mulga as fodder is a vital part of drought management for our farmers, and we should be making it easier to harvest, not more difficult. Mulga is highly resilient and drought tolerant. When mulga is cleared, it grows back like the grass in your lawn after it has been mown. If the regrowth is not controlled, the country becomes unusable. They can buy all the hay they want, but if access to mulga is taken away, livestock would starve and our graziers would go broke. Quite simply, without access to this feed source, we would have no cattle or sheep industry in Western Queensland. As the mayor of the Paroo Shire Council, Lindsay Godfrey, said—

Mulga is one of the reliable tools that we have for a lot of the area to get us through droughts, the more you push it down the more it grows.

Under the LNP, laws for fodder harvesting during times of drought were self-assessable. Labor's antifarming laws remove this self-assessability and add another layer of red tape, significantly slowing down the approval process. Our farmers are in the battle of their lives. In some cases, they have not had decent rain for seven years, and the last thing they need is to be spending hours and hours trying to meet stringent compliance requirements around mapping, including GPS coordinates, photographs and reporting. As Grant Maudsley, the AgForce president, said—

The tightening of the fodder harvesting code and the removal of the thinning code have meant more red tape for farmers to navigate and made it more difficult to grow grass to feed livestock.

Further—

The whole process is much more time consuming and complicated at a time when drought-stricken farmers are working around the clock just to keep their stock alive.

The minister said last week, 'The Palaszczuk government is backing farmers and drought affected communities.' I hope the minister is listening here tonight because the regulations are not working and stock are dying because of it. The minister said that graziers can harvest up to 50 per cent of their regulated mulga, but that mulga must be untouched for 10 years and it must be an average height of four metres. That is not easy in a long-running drought. Farmers need to be given the flexibility to harvest mulga as they see fit. Nice neat strips in rectangular level paddocks sound good in theory, but the reality is that farmers want to harvest mulga around watering points. They want to harvest mulga where they can get the most benefit, and these new regulations are taking that away from them.

The cover and density of mulga stands can be quite varied. If a grazier pushes a stand of mulga that has a much lower density, he is still restricted to a 500 hectare total area. For instance, in thicker stands, the feed value is 100 per cent, another stand which has medium cover is 50 per cent, whereas low density stands may only have 25 per cent. What this means is that graziers are being forced to target thicker stands of mulga to get the maximum benefit from each permit application, which may not necessarily be good for the land. As one grazier said when trying to meet his compliance requirements—

The current approach has us driving a machine with one hand and holding the phone (GPS) and following a blue dot while trying to avoid gullies and breakaways. This is all quite dangerous.

Again—

It is impossible to get the planning right on the online mapping tool—the Google earth imagery does not show the on-ground variation, with gullies, breakaways and jump-ups not evident.

These are the reflections and comments from real people. These are the graziers and their families on the land battling for survival in one of the worst droughts in this nation's history—farmers who have been living on the land in some cases for generations. All of a sudden they have had the shackles put on them by this government. There is a real risk that if these laws are passed today without amendment we will see farmers going broke, livestock dying in increasing numbers and the agricultural industry in Western Queensland decimated. We have the opportunity here tonight to fix that.

I will move on to the tree-thinning laws or, as it is now known, the managing thickened vegetation regulations—and what a debacle this has been. These are the guidelines. That is right: 82 pages of bureaucratic red tape that have become a nightmare for our farmers. Let me explain how this works. Farmers are required to leave remnant trees with a diameter of 200 millimetres in situ. Furthermore, they are required to leave a five-metre buffer zone around each remnant tree. I want to table a photo taken last week at Charleville to illustrate my point.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting mulga growth [1281].


As members can see by that photo, the mulga regrowth is so dense in this area that people can barely walk through it, yet it cannot be cleared because of the number of remnant trees in the area. What happens? The mulga gets thicker and thicker until such time as there is no grass left and stock have no feed. When we combine a \$3,100 application fee and an estimated \$10,000 consultant fee to complete the development application forms, honourable members begin to understand why graziers are not bothering to apply for these permits.

Despite what those on that side of the House might think, our graziers are not environmental vandals. In fact, it is quite the opposite. If they were to go out and knock over all the mulga on their properties, they would have nothing left for the future in terms of drought fodder. We need to trust our farmers to do the right thing; we need to get out of their way and allow them to manage their properties as they see fit. Sure, we can keep an eye on what they are doing, but that is what extension officers are for. There should be more of those officers working individually with farmers on the ground to provide the necessary advice and guidance.

I will move quickly on to the managing category C regrowth vegetation code, which is being remade to meet this government's election commitment to protect what they are calling high conservation value regrown vegetation. What this regulation does, however, is remove the agriculture and grazing section of the code. These changes were made without consultation, and I note that the remade code will be in place temporarily while advice on the appropriateness of its measures is obtained from the Queensland Herbarium and the CSIRO. I certainly hope that consultation extends to our farmers and the decision is not made in the Greens' office here in Brisbane because managing regrowth, as I have explained here today, is vitally important to the sustainability of our agricultural sector going forward. As one grazier said last week—

The rules are the problems. There is a complete lack of trust, we have no belief and they have taken away our certainty. It seems like we are dealing with a Government that is driven by the Greenies.

We have heard from the Premier, the minister and a number of MPs from that side of the House how they support the drought appeal and associated campaign to help our farmers. Talk is cheap. I now say to those members that it is time to walk the walk. If they are fair dinkum about supporting our farmers, if they are genuine in their offer to make a difference, if they want to see our farmers survive in the mulga lands in Western Queensland, they will support this disallowance motion here tonight and allow our farmers to do what they do best: manage their properties and survive this drought.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (5.43 pm): I rise in opposition to the disallowance motion moved by the member for Burdekin. The LNP's credibility on this issue was cleared away in 2013 when they reversed Labor's sensible, longstanding vegetation management laws. Labor's laws provided for sustainable land management and when the LNP tore them up, tree clearing in Queensland quadrupled and reached a rate of 1,000 football fields a day.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order!

Ms ENOCH: That was unsustainable and posed a risk to our native wildlife and the health of the Great Barrier Reef. We saw a 300—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gregory, order. Members, before I call the member for Algerst, I remind you of the fact that we actually listened to the member for Burdekin in silence. I ask you to show the same respect to other members when they get to their feet.

Ms ENOCH: We saw a 351 per cent increase in the clearing of woody vegetation in reef catchments between 2010-11 and 2015-16. That would have put at risk tens of thousands of jobs that are reliant on the Great Barrier Reef, put the reef's World Heritage status at risk and driven native wildlife to extinction. The Premier has set our government's key priorities over this term, and in the Our

Future State: Advancing Queensland's Priorities framework one of these priorities is protecting the Great Barrier Reef. Protecting the Great Barrier Reef and the commitments we made to the international community required scientific insight to make decisions. Our comprehensive vegetation management laws are about preserving habitat and protecting the Great Barrier Reef.

As the Minister for Science as well as the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, I am a passionate advocate for ensuring all of my department's decisions are based on science. The Palaszczuk government is retaining accepted development vegetation clearing codes where they are supported by the best available science. An independent report by Cardno, commissioned by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, released in November 2015, raised concerns that the accepted development vegetation clearing codes did not completely comply with the purpose of the Vegetation Management Act 1999.

Our election commitment to the people of Queensland in 2017 included amending the accepted development vegetation clearing codes based on the Queensland Herbarium's scientific advice. In 2016-17 the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy consulted with key stakeholders on the fodder-harvesting code and the management of thickened vegetation code. Early in 2018 the government requested the Queensland Herbarium to conduct a scientific review of the fodder-harvesting code, the managing thickened vegetation code and the compliance of these codes with the purpose of the Vegetation Management Act. The Queensland Herbarium science report recommended amendments to these codes to reduce ecological risk and biodiversity loss and to better meet the purpose of the Vegetation Management Act. The Herbarium's report on these two codes was independently reviewed by the CSIRO, which endorsed the Herbarium's recommendations. We doubled down on the science.

The fodder-harvesting code recommendations were to ensure that harvesting of this valuable drought resource was sustainable into the future. The new fodder-harvesting code places a limit of 500 hectares on the area that can be harvested under one notification. Landholders can make as many notifications as they need. Before they make a second or subsequent notification they must undertake a self-audit to ensure that their harvesting complies with the code.

The CSIRO reviewed the Queensland Herbarium's improvement to the managing thickened vegetation code but concluded that these activities were too high an ecological risk to be self-assessable. The CSIRO recommended that managing thickened vegetation be assessed under a development application. This recommendation is based on the best available science and has been accepted by the government.

Let me be clear: farmers can continue to harvest mulga and other fodder species to help feed their hungry stock by following the accepted development code. The code is designed to ensure that the harvesting is sustainable. While there is a limit on the area that can be harvested under one notification, farmers can make as many notifications as they need. The government is also helping primary producers to manage their business during the current severe drought conditions through a range of drought services including financial assistance, livestock nutrition and animal welfare information, and business management strategies.

As I have outlined, our government's vegetation management decisions are backed by science that has been expertly prepared by the Queensland Herbarium and peer reviewed by the country's leading science body, the CSIRO. During debate on our vegetation management bill earlier this year, much was made of the science behind the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study report. It is important to note that the recent 2015-16 SLATS report was reviewed externally by international experts at the Remote Sensing Research Unit of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa. What this means is that the Queensland Herbarium's science is peer reviewed and it stacks up.

This government is committed to using science to guide the sustainable use of native vegetation for the benefit of Queenslanders now and into the future. The impacts of climate change on our environment are clear. Our vegetation management laws are about alleviating one of the factors putting a strain on the environment and the Great Barrier Reef.


As well as reintroducing sensible vegetation management laws, the Palaszczuk government is also establishing a \$500 million Land Restoration Fund to facilitate a pipeline of Queensland based carbon reduction projects that also deliver additional environmental, social and economic co-benefits for land managers, their communities and ecosystems. This commitment reflects the findings of consultants Energetics that Queensland's carbon farming sector could be worth up to \$8 billion by 2030 under certain conditions. This flagship project is an important opportunity for landholders, particularly farmers and traditional owners, to earn additional income through caring for their land.

The Palaszczuk government accepts the science on climate change. We recognise that this is a challenge for everyone. Unfortunately, last week we saw our new Prime Minister dismiss climate change as an issue impacting drought-stricken farmers. At the same time the PM made the dismissive remark, 'The climate is changing. Everybody knows that.' This is from the man who brought a lump of coal into the federal parliament and leads a party that refuses to commit to energy policy. Unfortunately, we see an opposition that is ignoring the science of climate change and the science of vegetation management. National Farmers' Federation president Fiona Simpson understands the role that climate change is playing in the drought. She said—

It's a drought that we're seeing out there now, but we also have to respond to climate change and the fact that that could make these events more severe and more regular.

In the same way, the science is clear that our vegetation management laws will assist the Great Barrier Reef in being more resilient to the effects of climate change. Whilst the federal government is in disarray on many fronts—least of all on who should lead their party—they are shamefully dropping the ball on climate change and protecting our environment for the future. The motion before the House today demonstrates the same lack of leadership on climate change and science based action from the LNP.

The Palaszczuk government is unashamed in our commitment to evidence based decision-making to get the best result for all of Queensland. We are the custodians of the largest living organism on the planet. Vegetation management and the evidence based actions we are taking on climate change give the Great Barrier Reef the best possible chance. I call on those opposite to demonstrate a similar commitment to science based decision-making. I oppose the motion.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.52 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion moved by the shadow minister, the member for Burdekin, 'Sir' Dale Last. This disallowance motion is the result of an amendment to the codes that underpin the vegetation management legislation introduced into this House earlier in the year. At the time, as deputy chair of the committee, I made the prediction that the devil would be in the detail regarding this legislation. That is what we are now seeing.

When the bill was going through the committee process and then debated in the House, the government repeated over and over that landowners would still be able to go about business as usual, including the harvesting of mulga. Landowners, AgForce, QFF, Property Rights Australia and other rural bodies told the government that this legislation was not practical. They asked to be included in the development of the new codes to try and achieve a workable outcome, but to no avail. This government knew better. Local landowners' concerns were ignored.

Instead, graziers have had to listen to Minister Lynham tell them over and over, 'There is no problem.' Media release after media release has been published telling all and sundry that all was going swimmingly. Minister, if you had bothered to talk with the landowners at the front line, the landowners in the mulga lands, you would hear a completely different story. Landowners would have also had good reason to expect to see the minister for agriculture come to their assistance or, at the very least, show some compassion for the predicament they now find themselves in through no fault of their own. But no, once again Minister Furner has been deathly silent.

The LNP have listened to the very real concerns and impracticalities of this ill-conceived legislation that were highlighted by the member for Burdekin earlier. The proposed codes were never going to work in the first place, but with the worsening drought situation across the state the flaws in these codes have been exacerbated and exposed. Almost 60 per cent of Queensland is now in drought. The western areas are now entering the seventh consecutive failed wet season. This drought has spread its tentacles far and wide through New South Wales and Victoria. This has meant that crop-growing areas have failed to produce any grain, hay or silage. Indeed, grain is being shipped across from Western Australia to the port of Brisbane and then trucked inland to feed livestock. Hay is being trucked over from both South Australia and Western Australia. There is virtually no local product for local producers to source, so they must buy imported grain and hay at very expensive cost.

Cotton seed, which is a great drought supplement, is expensive and now in very short supply. The west always had a valuable source of drought fodder at their disposal for times such as these: mulga. They still do. It is there on their properties ready to be utilised, as it has many, many times before. That is, until the Palaszczuk government introduced these draconian vegetation management laws. The mayor of Paroo Shire Council, Lindsay Godfrey, stated—

Mulga is one of the reliable tools we have for a lot of the area to get us through droughts, the more you push it down the more it grows.

The amendments under this code have made the harvesting of mulga a nightmare for producers. The layers of paperwork, which were displayed by the member for Burdekin earlier, and the GPS coordinates needed to apply for permission to harvest mulga are driving many producers to despair. One producer told me that he believes the current regulations are aimed at slowing people down. He said—

It gives us more time-consuming work to do at a time when we do not have any spare time. Why do we need to take photos of the uncleared and cleared areas when Minister Lynham was bragging that they can see all the evidence of what is going on from satellite imagery. We have to keep letting them—

the government—

know, draw the next area that we are going to harvest, and then use the online mapping tool which is painful and hard to interpret.

Another landowner stated in an email—

Another problem we have is that we are not allowed to push mulga only in one area—we have two blocks and are told that we have to spread the clearing of mulga over both blocks. Therefore, we have to transport the machine which causes lots of wear-and-tear due to dust on the track.

This is creating cases where the only mulga that can be harvested is a long way from the nearest water, as many dams are now dry. A landowner stated—

A major issue that I have on my place is the fact that the cover and density of mulga stands can be quite varied. If I push a stand that has much lower cover, I am still restricted to the 500-hectare total area. For instance, in thicker stands the feed value is 100 per cent; another stand which has medium cover is 50 per cent; whereas low-density stands may have 25 per cent. This 500-hectare limit approach is going to lean us towards pushing thicker clumps.

The problem with the 500-hectare limit and strips is that in many cases it is impracticable. As one landowner said—

We are pushing 300 hectares in a fortnight, so we are needing to renotify continually on a fortnightly basis or shorter. I need at least five hours in my office complying with the notification process and another hour or so in the paddock to mark our GPS marker points.

While permits are being processed, it is a very slow process. As Mayor Lindsay Godfrey said—


People are in a drought, most people are struggling, people don't have time to go and start reading up on these laws and making submissions.

The problem with the 500-hectare area limit and remnant strips is that in many cases it is impracticable. The previous code allowed for clearing up to 135-metre strips for fodder harvesting. This code has reduced that to 50 metres for fodder and then a 75-metre strip that must be left standing. This means that landowners can only harvest less than half of that 500-hectare limit. Landowners speak of driving a bulldozer with a mobile phone in one hand, trying to stay in the grid pattern while pushing mulga, navigating around mature trees, gullies, jump-ups and other obstacles.

As someone who has spent many thousands of hours managing regrowth on a bulldozer, I know full well the impracticalities that these landowners are facing. These landowners are well aware of the penalties that will be imposed upon them if they happen to breach these guidelines. This is particularly concerning given the admission by the Herbarium during the committee process about the inaccuracy of the SLATS mapping.

The removal of the thinning code and the tightening of the fodder code have come at the worst possible time for those in the mulga lands. At a time when most are struggling to keep their livestock alive and look after their own mental health, the imposition of these unworkable codes is the last thing they need. We are now in spring, and there will soon be calves on the ground, adding extra pressure on keeping fodder up to the hungry stock. Minister Lynham needs to stop issuing misleading media statements and go and talk to the landowners who are paying the price for these ill-conceived laws. It is time for the minister to stop playing politics on this issue. It is time to admit that he has got this one wrong.

Whilst there are many other issues that I have with this vegetation management legislation, the codes surrounding mulga are the worst example and are the most pressing. This has now become an animal welfare issue, because of this legislation. It does not need to be. The solution to this is simple: go out and meet with the landowners in the mulga lands. Many have lived there all their lives. They value the mulga, they value their livestock and they value their lifestyle. Their knowledge of the mulga lands is invaluable. The answer lies with them, not the bureaucrats. The minister must act and act now.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.01 pm): I stand today to speak against this disallowance motion moved by the opposition. I stand once again to speak out against another attempt by the LNP to wreck a fair and balanced vegetation management system. I stand to speak for the fair, balanced and workable vegetation management laws and regulations brought in by the Palaszczuk government.

I say that the LNP have been misleading and misinforming farmers and graziers. We saw that most clearly during the committee process examining the vegetation management bill. When we explained to these primary producers that they can keep farming their land in a sustainable and responsible manner, contrary to what they had heard from the LNP, they looked relieved. I will talk tonight to the LNP's pattern of spreading misinformation about our vegetation management laws and how it tries to maintain this pattern with this mischievous motion we have tonight.

I refer to the thickening of vegetation. Under the LNP laws there were massive loopholes in this code that allowed virtual broadscale clearing. We saw pictures of where there were only a few trees left in the paddocks after thinning had occurred. It was very clear in the hearings that you need a precise assessment before any thinning of vegetation.

The misinformation put out there by the LNP is epitomised by what the member for Burdekin has said. We saw some pretty disgraceful things in this parliament today, but him using that word was pretty disgraceful as well. The member for Burdekin has form. Before the hearings in Townsville he stood out the front and said that you would not be able to clear a single tree in Queensland again. I heard that he had to be walked back from that. The member for Thuringowa called him out in the media. He said that what the member for Burdekin had been saying was rubbish. The fact is that it was the LNP that brought in disruptive changes to vegetation management. We are returning to the fair and balanced system that we had before the Campbell Newman regime.

One of the things we have often heard from the LNP about these laws and regulations is that they limit the expansion of the agricultural sector. Once again, that is wrong. The LNP did not like to hear from our departmental staff that under these laws and regulations there is one million hectares available to the agricultural industry for expansion. That is land cleared for cropping that can be used for grazing and cropping. That is marked category X on the PMAVs and no permit is needed to clear it. These regulations are not stopping the expansion of the industry, despite the LNP's claims.

The LNP are happy to spread the misinterpretation that farmers and graziers will not be allowed to clear weeds. This is rubbish. Under these codes farmers can conduct weed clearing, and they can do it without the need for an application. Producers would not know that if they only listened to the LNP. Bristow Hughes, a witness at the Townsville hearing on the bill, said that he hoped he would be able to clear weeds—bellyache, poison peach, rubber vine—in his riparian zone. I told him that under the self-assessable code for weeds he could do that, and if he took out some native vegetation when doing that it would be self-assessable. Mr Calcagno, representing the canefarmers in Cairns, said that he was concerned about being prevented from being able to clear woody weeds and guinea grass from abandoned farms they might purchase. I assured him that we are not stopping him from clearing guinea grass. He would not know that if he listened to those opposite.


We heard from Councillor Pratt, from the Barcoo Shire Council, who was concerned that they could not clear gidgee that had encroached onto the Mitchell Grass Downs bioregion. I told him that they could clear out invasive weeds, including native weeds such as gidgee, under the encroachment code. I say to these farmers that nothing has changed under these acts and regulations to stop them from doing their job in a sustainable and responsible manner. Mr Morton in Longreach knew this. He said that he found he could handle the thickening of gidgee in his area by using the encroachment code. These producers are not getting this information from the LNP.

I raise the issue of fodder harvesting. One of the greatest misconceptions peddled by the LNP is that we are stopping graziers harvesting mulga for feed. This is a mischievous mistruth. Under the LNP you could have gone to town and cleared all of your property of mulga for fodder. As members have heard, the changes allow for 500 hectares and self-audit. The new code places a limit on the area that can be harvested under that one notification. Graziers can then do another notification for a further 500 hectares. We check on them to make sure they are doing the right thing. As one of the postdoctoral fellows said at one of the hearings, in many cases that is enough fodder for cattle. As we have heard, the new code reduces the width of the strips that can be harvested at one time. That is so the vegetation remains remnant and can be regenerated. That makes sure that fodder harvesting is sustainable in the long term.

Federal Minister Littleproud has been one of the worst offenders in terms of peddling mistruths around our state—saying that we are stopping or preventing drought-stricken graziers harvesting mulga. He said that we can help graziers in drought by changing the laws to allow the harvesting of mulga. He clearly does not want his constituents to know the truth about how our fair and balanced laws and regulations actually work. It is disappointing but not surprising to see a federal minister peddle this misinformation.

One of the things we have heard today is that a lot of graziers want certainty. At the conclusion of some of our hearings I asked what landholders needed. Mr MacDonnell from Central Queensland said that he wanted vegetation management resolved and no longer used as a political football. Dominic Burden from Desert Channels Queensland said that he wanted vegetation management depoliticised and for government to set a stable platform.

It is now clear who is using this as a political football. It is the LNP. Rural producers said that they want certainty and stability more than anything else, and these regulations and this legislation deliver that certainty. The LNP should accept these regulations as a foundation for the ongoing tree-clearing regulation into the future. We do not need more instability and more uncertainty generated by its misinformation and mischief.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.09 pm): I rise to support the disallowance motion moved by the shadow minister for natural resources and mines on the vegetation management clearing codes. Firstly, I want to acknowledge the constituents of my electorate who will be watching this debate and many of them have been outstanding managers of mulga through fodder harvesting for generations. The utilisation of mulga trees to provide fodder for domestic stock during drought has been part of routine management on many grazing enterprises in south-west Queensland's mulga lands for over 100 years—before the term 'climate change' even existed. If landholders were mismanaging mulga, surely after 100 years there would be none left. The reality is that there is more mulga now than ever before. Landholders and farmers are angry and frustrated and disappointed, not because of the relenting drought conditions but because of the hostile state Labor government that has imposed restrictive, unworkable, impractical and unbalanced regulations with regard to fodder harvesting and thinning.

Mulga fodder harvesting is not tree clearing. I will say that again for members opposite who have a warped and illogical view on vegetation management: mulga fodder harvesting is not tree clearing and, for the benefit of one of the earlier speakers, there is not too much mulga that grows in the Great Barrier Reef catchments either. There is plenty of science to prove this and it is all being ignored by this Labor government. To overregulate mulga fodder harvesting under the guise of ending broadscale tree clearing is wrong, it is not backed by science and it is downright deceit from this government.

Fodder harvesting of mulga is about managing the cycle of vegetation regeneration. To put it simply, it is like mowing the lawn. Like the lawn, the mulga is still out there after it has been cut. It regrows, it regenerates and, in many cases, it regenerates more mulga than ever before. I have some photos with me that show how quickly mulga regenerates and thickens. The first photo was taken on a property 40 kilometres east of Wyandra in my electorate, and I will table it for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Photographs depicting growth on land in 1957, 1994 and 2001 [[1282](#)].

In 1957 the area was grassland. In 1994 the mulga was well up over your head. In 2001 the mulga was as thick as the hairs on a dog's back. In 40 years, without restrictions, the mulga had regenerated. We have heard contributions from members opposite about their belief that farmers can push mulga to feed their stock. What this Labor government is begrudgingly allowing landholders to do is to utilise a couple of pot plants when really there is a need for a workable and flexible process that enables them to manage thousands of hectares of mulga.

For the benefit of members opposite, let us look at how this government has smashed balanced laws for ideology in a process that has made restrictions that are unworkable and impractical. Let us look at that set area limit per notification of 500 hectares per lot. I am sorry to say, but the mulga trees just did not quite get the memo. They do not know about growing in a perfect 500-hectare plot. Their cover and their density varies. During the South West Strategy many lots were amalgamated and some properties are one lot, so therefore they have to go back and make multiple harvesting notifications. There are landholders who are pushing 300 hectares a fortnight, so they are continually making notifications. This is this Labor government's restriction and it is this Labor government's green tape.

In terms of the modification of the maximum strip width from 135 metres that can be fodder harvested to 50 metres, when we look at a 500-hectare lot the yield, taking into account the strips, is about 250 hectares. This government is being very slippery with the truth and the amount of fodder that can be harvested. Let us talk about that introduction of the self-audit process. I am advised that this consumes about five hours of office time—provided the internet is working—with the government notification processes and at least another hour out in the paddock to mark out the GPS points. That is Labor green tape and it is theft of landholder time.

With regard to the online application process, one can only continue to fodder harvest after approval has been given. That was certainly not the case under the self-assessable codes under the LNP. The thickening code has been abolished under this Labor government. Thickening of mulga is no longer recognised. Permits for thinning have to be undertaken through the Integrated Planning Act at a cost of \$3,000 per application, not to mention that it might cost \$10,000 for a consultant to complete the paperwork. If you have thickening in mulga, which many do, welcome to this Labor government's expensive and lengthy permit process. Landholders certainly did not have to do that under the LNP and there is no doubt that the minister has been untruthful with his misleading myth-busting drivel that has been coming through in his press releases.


This is a time of drought when there are feed shortages throughout the eastern state and it is heartbreaking to see a bale in every mulga tree that landholders just cannot access because of this hostile government. This restrictive and unworkable regulatory regime impacts not only on farmers trying to keep their stock alive but flows right through to the stockmen, the women, the fencing contractors, the small businesses, the local butcher, the tool shops, the feed supplier, the general store, to name a few.

Here with me tonight I have correspondence sent from my constituents the Sargoods, the McInnerneys and the Camerons to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. My constituents are very disappointed with this minister given that his office has referred their correspondence back to me to respond to. My office received a covering note stating—

Please find letter below from one of your constituents. I have let them know that I have forwarded to your office for follow-up.

Don't you worry about that, Minister: I will follow-up, and I will follow-up and make sure there is an apology to the Sargoods, an apology to the McInnerneys and an apology to the Camerons who have raised valid concerns and questions about how that minister will vote on this disallowance motion. These constituents were asking this minister to vote in favour of this disallowance motion. Instead of answering their questions, his office flicked that correspondence to me. With all the resources of the minister's office and the government, it seems that his office thinks I am better at answering his correspondence. Do not worry: I will certainly give them a response, but the minister should give them an apology for the tardy way he has handled their concerns.

These regulations tell us that this Labor government has no regard for science, no regard for constituent concerns, no understanding of property management, no understanding of the thickening process of mulga in Queensland, and no understanding of land management in a balanced way that protects the environment and enables sustainable production of stock and land management. I read in *Hansard* the questions that the member for Ipswich West asked. At least he has grown something in pot plants, which is more than what some of his colleagues have done. I read the questions that he asked and I look forward to him crossing the floor and supporting this disallowance motion, because I know that he knows this regulation is wrong. I can read that in his questions.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (6.17 pm): I rise to oppose and condemn the Liberal National Party for this disallowance motion. This is the party that is disingenuous with primary producers and flat out unable to prosecute its arguments without recourse to slogans and fact-free arguments.

The very fact of the matter is the Labor Party delivered on its election commitments. We delivered on what we said in 2015 and we delivered on what we said in 2017. On both occasions there was proper parliamentary process. On both occasions there was an avenue for stakeholders to have their say, and I want to acknowledge—and there is no surprise here—that AgForce and several other primary producers disagreed with these laws and regulations. That is their right. They have the right to do that as an organisation representing people on the land. The LNP is playing politics with this issue. It is demonising farmers by bringing this disallowance motion into this House—demonising farmers.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Members, I am flat out listening to the minister despite his loud voice. I need you to show a bit of respect back to the speaker. I know that it can be provocative. I am happy to give a bit of leniency in that regard, but that was starting to get a little out of control.

Mr FURNER: How many times does this same argument need to be revisited? One of the criticisms that has been raised is that there has not been certainty in the past. Let the LNP provide that certainty now. It should end this disallowance motion and support the status quo. Then there will be certainty.

As the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, I have travelled more than 35,000 kilometres and visited over 40 towns and cities in our wonderful state. I have listened to graziers, horticultural workers, processors, transporters and townspeople. The parliamentary committee travelled across Queensland. Everyone was able to have their say. The committee engaged with people in the regions. I would like to extend my thanks to the committee, which is led ably by the member for Bancroft and includes the members for Ipswich West and Mount Ommaney, for their tireless work over the past several months.

As minister, one concern I have is the misinformation from the LNP members. They have said that producers can no longer push mulga. We have heard that today, we have heard it here this evening and we have heard it on social media. That is blatantly incorrect and the members opposite know that. There are claims that people can push mulga, but it will cost thousands of dollars. That is incorrect as well. Everyone from the federal agriculture minister down has peddled these untruths. It is causing confusion and angst in the communities that those members opposite say they represent. Just today, in a video posted on social media, the Leader of the Opposition, along with the members for Burdekin and Gympie, again maintained the line that farmers cannot push mulga. I say to them: stop using these hardworking people as political pawns. It is really disgusting.

Just nine days ago—on a Sunday—I travelled out to Charleville and visited Ged East of Maxvale. I think he is a fourth- or fifth-generation farmer. He was pushing mulga to feed his cattle. Along with that, he had bales of hay—it was not top-grade hay—from Mundubbera. Certainly, he had a supply of feed for his cattle. He told me that, without the ability to push mulga and given the current drought situation, he would have struggled to keep his stock. Imagine if people out there had been listening to the member for Burdekin when he tells them that they cannot push mulga. That would have put animals, businesses and lives at risk. The members opposite should really be ashamed of themselves when they come into this chamber and peddle these myths. I understand that the correct information has been provided to the producers.

For the benefit of the House, I will now refer to the facts. As we have heard today from other speakers, the new fodder code places a limit on the area that can be harvested under one notification. Landholders can make as many notifications as required. Before they make a second or subsequent notification, they must undertake a self-audit to ensure that their harvesting complies with the code. The new code also reduces the width of the strips that can be harvested at one time, but that ensures that the vegetation remains remnant and will regenerate, which ensures that fodder harvesting is sustainable in the long haul. That is what we need in mulga country.

Again and again, the LNP members have been caught out. They claim that these vegetation management laws worsen the drought for producers in Queensland. Let me talk about how the LNP deals with drought policy. More than 50 per cent of the state is drought declared. There are producers who have applied for and are being granted individual drought property declarations where their shire is not drought declared. Once again, the LNP members continue to play politics on drought without having any policy.

At a state level, the contributions of the shadow minister for agriculture demonstrate his lack of knowledge of procedure and promote political interference in the drought declaration process. Rather than seek expert advice on how the process works, the member pens petty political letters that demonstrate his inability to understand the process. I remind the member that he is free to seek a briefing to get the truth on the matter before meddling in the process. That shows that the LNP members value politics over people.

Any sort of policy on drought would have been desirable from the LNP conspirators in Canberra. Since 2013, when the coalition came to government, we have seen no drought reform. We have seen no acknowledgement of climate change. We have seen more Prime Ministers than drought plans. The architect of the LNP's disastrous agriculture policy—the border-crossing, loyalty-lacking Barnaby Joyce—has been rewarded by being made a drought envoy.

Just yesterday I met with Major General Stephen Day, who is the national drought coordinator. He is a wonderful man and he is also a member of my electorate. I am yet to hear from special envoy—whatever that means—Barnaby Joyce. It has been reported that Fiona Simpson, the President of the National Farmers' Federation, said that her organisation was still getting its head around what exactly Barnaby is doing. Having met David Littleproud earlier this year at the agriculture ministers meeting, I feel sympathy for him. To make matters worse, along with the new drought coordinator, Major General Stephen Day, and everyone else in the region of Queensland, David Littleproud is lumped with Barnaby. Barnaby had ample opportunity to consider the way forward for drought, and he failed miserably.


Queensland will work with Minister Littleproud on the drought situation as required, but Barnaby's envoy position is as toothless as is his competency. His appointment is almost as laughable as Tony Abbott being appointed the special envoy to Indigenous affairs. The systematic failure of Barnaby is as simple as one, two, three. Three letters were sent to Barnaby about a top-up to the emergency water infrastructure rebate, and all three requests were knocked back. In May, I wrote to Minister Littleproud about this matter. I look forward to his consideration when he responds. Producers need the support of measures to assist them in this drought and the next. The emergency water infrastructure rebate does that. It is time Canberra came on board.

I remind the House of the following comments of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy—

I thank the members for their contribution, including the heartfelt contribution we just heard, but I would just like to reiterate that it is still a self-assessable code. Mulga can be harvested for fodder under a notification. Not much has changed.

It seems that the LNP will prosecute an argument that need not be prosecuted. There is no argument. Let us work together to promote, not talk down, agriculture in Queensland. At times like these, our farmers need our assistance. As a parliament, we are assisting farmers through this time of drought through the Queensland Drought Appeal. To date, as we heard from the Premier, we have raised \$2.5 million. I want to see that amount grow so that it can benefit more farmers to get through this drought. There will be an end to this drought. We will see rain.

I have met many farmers in my travels. It has been such a privilege. I will never forget the words of a canefarmer up in Proserpine in May this year. He said, 'I'm a conservationist. I've cleared the amount of land I want to work on to grow cane. I don't need to clear any more. I'm protecting the land by keeping those trees on the waterways.' This evening, there was a comment about paperwork. I encourage those opposite to get on to their LNP members in Canberra, because the farm household insurance application is 102 questions long and 14 pages in length. That is not assisting our graziers in getting assistance on the ground when it is needed.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (6.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of the disallowance motion for the Vegetation Management (Clearing Codes) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation. If the government opposes this disallowance motion, it will make a mockery of the Premier's assurances that—

My Government recognises the terrible impact that this prolonged drought has had on people in Queensland.

If this motion does not pass, it means that the Premier's words are merely lip-service. Queenslanders will know that, when the Premier said 'with more than half of the state in the grip of a devastating six-year drought, I had no hesitation in lending my support to the campaign' those words have no meaning. If this motion does not pass, it will be confirmation that the government engages in political opportunistic window-dressing and insincerity as it masquerades its support for drought-affected farmers and their communities.

Queensland farmers, their workers, their families and their communities will be judging this government on what it does and does not do, not on what it says. This regulation is a direct result of Labor's regressive antifarming vegetation management laws.

While farmers struggle with the insidious creep of drought, they are tied up in more red and green tape, jumping through hoops just to feed their livestock. Previously fodder harvesting during drought was self-assessable. Labor has removed this and added a layer of bureaucracy that slows down the process.

The government tells only half the story when it says that fodder harvesting permits are being processed. What it does not say is that processing applications is slower, that ludicrous restrictions are in place on how fodder can be harvested and that farmers can only apply to clear half of what they previously could. Graziers can now clear only 500 hectares per notification and with half of that locked up it means that fodder in less than 250 hectares can be used for feedstock.

The government says graziers can harvest up to 50 per cent of their regulated mulga. What it does not say is that it must be untouched for 10 years and have an average height of four metres tall. For members living in their concrete jungles, that is higher than the average suburban house. How hard do members think it would be to find stands of mulga four metres high after six years of drought? The Paroo shire mayor, Lindsay Godfrey, said—

Mulga is known as 'living hay' in the south west and without current practices, people will not be able to remain in their communities.

...

Mulga is one of the reliable tools that we have for a lot of the area to get us through drought, the more you push it down the more it grows.

This motion highlights the daily reality for rural and regional Queenslanders who deal with the government's endless bureaucratic fixation on codes and regulations that stops them from getting on with the job. During the past few weeks the Minister for Natural Resources has been on a media blitz spinning that nothing has changed and that farmers can use mulga to feed their stock. In letters to newspapers he said—

The government fully supports the right of farmers to harvest mulga on their properties to feed stock in times of drought.

...

Modest changes to the fodder harvesting code were designed to ensure harvesting is sustainable.

The minister gave the same reassurances back in March when he introduced the legislation. Nothing could be further from the truth. Farmers smell a rat because they know what is happening on the ground. The media blitz is designed to take the focus off the government as city eyes are turned to drought and the government's culpability is shown up. Grant Maudsley of AgForce said the minister was telling only half the truth because 'There is no doubt the vegetation management laws have made it harder for farmers to do their jobs, and that's the last thing they need in drought'. He also said—

The tightening of the fodder harvesting code and the removal of the thinning code have meant more red tape for farmers to navigate and made it more difficult to grow grass to feed livestock.

The practical implications of removing the thinning code is that it has limited the area that farmers can harvest each time, which may last only a few days or a week or two. The width of the mulga strips farmers can push has reduced significantly and farmers have to notify the department more often as well as keep a lot more photographic evidence of what is happening and when it is happening. Once again, Grant Maudsley said—

The whole process is much more time consuming and complicated at a time when drought-stricken farmers are working around the clock just to keep their stock alive.

As a primary producer who has experienced drought, I have firsthand experience of what is required to complete government paperwork. It is not simple. The process is onerous. It is unproductive other than tying you up when you are trying to keep your livestock alive. Paperwork might appease Labor Party consciences—it might let them think they are doing something—but paperwork does not feed livestock. Paperwork does not put food on the table.

The Minister for Natural Resources' assurances echo the same sentiments from the minister for agriculture. They both think that ticking boxes and filling in more paperwork is a practical solution. It may be fine for people in electorates less than 10 kilometres away from the CBD, but it does not help those in drought. It is impractical and unworkable. As Lindsay Godfrey said—


People are in a drought, most people are struggling, people don't have time to go and start reading up on these laws and making submissions.

Compounding the bureaucratic nightmare is that farmers are having to deal with mapping that is still wildly inaccurate, complex and changing. To use those maps, which are based on unqualified rates from the SLATS report, to spin a political agenda is disingenuous. The government knows it is inaccurate. Briefing notes released under right to information laws reveal that ministers were told by departmental officials in 2016 that we had accurate information on vegetation losses, but not accurate information on vegetation gains. There is no reference to thickening rates, which means the reports are not a true reflection of Queensland's vegetation.

The vegetation management laws are a disaster for farmers who have to deal with the natural disaster of drought. In March the Minister for Natural Resources said the laws would protect the climate, wildlife, the Great Barrier Reef and the tens of thousands of jobs that depend on the reef. Significantly, the minister did not mention farmers, their livestock and their jobs, their families and their communities except to give an empty assurance that they would still be able to maintain their land and clear fodder trees for feed. We know those reassurances were hollow because the reality is very different. It is time to stop this nonsense. Farmers are desperate to save their starving stock. Their hands are tied by this inner-city obsession to appease green activists. At what expense? Animal lovers and activists who really care about saving animals should support this motion and stop restricting access to vital fodder from mulga so farmers can feed livestock.

Almost 60 per cent of Queensland is drought declared. Many regions are entering their sixth consecutive failed wet season. There are now 23 council areas and four part council areas drought declared and there are already 85 individually drought-declared properties in another 11 council areas. We know this drought is extensive. That is why it is disappointing that the minister for agriculture revoked in May the drought declarations of 11 regions at the very time we were heading into the dry season and the drought was intensifying. It is also disappointing that despite requests, the minister is dragging his feet in allowing the local drought committees to reconvene to reconsider their drought status. It is shocking to learn from those on the ground that the department has denied repeatedly appeals for the committees to meet. The buck stops with the minister. Instead of hiding behind faceless and nameless committees, the minister could simplify the process by making a drought declaration.

The drought is biting and Labor's antifarmer laws are making it bite harder. They make it harder for farmers to feed their cattle and sheep. Feed crops in Queensland and New South Wales have both failed and now the cost of bringing in feed for hungry livestock is skyrocketing. Farmers need access to these mulga trees for emergency fodder and feed. Instead of putting up roadblocks we need to pass this motion and let rural and regional landholders get on with their jobs.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (6.37 pm), in reply: Farmers are suffering from the most severe drought for decades. I encourage all Queenslanders to dig deep to assist our farmers to not only get through this drought but also be able to bounce back when the drought finally breaks. I am pleased to see that our drought fund is up to \$2.42 million. Congratulations must go to Minister Furner, who has been a driving force behind this appeal.

Farmers have enough to cope with looking after their family and stock during these difficult times. I am particularly disappointed about the unnecessary stress caused by those opposite with their campaign of misinformation. It is political opportunism at its worst. Our farmers have enough to deal with, enough on their plate, without dealing with the extra burden created by those opposite. While farmers are trying to keep their stock alive those opposite are only concerned about saving their seats through a campaign of fearmongering. All this serves to increase the worry for our farmers, the very people and their families we are trying to help.

During the entire debate of vegetation management in this state the fearmongering from those opposite has been unprecedented. The motion before us is more of what we have seen previously: a series of uninformed, misleading drivel that serves no purpose other than to scare people who now more than ever need the support of their elected officials.

Nothing exemplifies that more than the content of an interview given by the shadow minister, Mr Last, on ABC's *Queensland Country Hour* on Tuesday, 21 August 2018. When spruiking the so-called virtues of this motion, he said that the LNP wanted to take fodder harvesting back to being self-assessable. It is self-assessable. In fact, at the moment we are debating a motion moved by the shadow minister to disallow the self-assessable code for fodder harvesting. It makes no sense.

I was prepared to give the shadow minister the benefit of the doubt. I thought that he must have made a mistake with the pressure of being on radio, but even tonight he said that fodder harvesting is not self-assessable, when clearly it is. Even tonight they are fearmongering through misinformation, which is causing stress to our farming community. The shadow minister has been caught out on the floor of parliament and his misinformation is now in *Hansard*. The mind boggles. In his speech, the shadow minister also said that we are increasing red tape. He held up the book. Our fodder code is 20 pages; the Campbell Newman fodder code was 23 pages. Again, he is caught out.

It reminds me of a question on notice that I received in May from the member for Gregory. He asked, in the light of the vegetation management reforms, how the government planned to support communities in his electorate whose economies were tied to high-value agriculture. Therefore, high-value agriculture in Gregory was important, it was sacrosanct and we had to protect it. I informed the member for Gregory that since high-value agriculture was introduced by Campbell Newman in 2013, not one single application existed in Gregory. Again, it was fearmongering.

During the last sitting week, the member for Warrego told the House that our laws had pushed up the costs for farmers who want to use mulga as a drought stockfeed. The application process remains free of charge, as it was in the old legislation and as it is now. Tonight the member for Warrego said—and it is in *Hansard* for all the people in the bush to read—that, after lodging a notification, landholders need to wait for an approval to harvest mulga. That is just not true. After notifying under an accepted development code, an acknowledgement is automatically generated and within minutes it is emailed to the landholders, who can immediately begin harvesting mulga. It is exactly the same system as in their legislation.

Mr Bailey: What incompetence.

Dr LYNHAM: It gets better. It is a sad thing when the LNP continues to argue a case that is simply not true and falls down over and over again. Harvesting mulga for fodder is legal. The member for Warrego and the Leader of the Opposition should know that. If they do not, they should apprise themselves of the facts before going on radio and, what is worse, standing on the floor of parliament and misleading our fine Queensland farmers. It is irresponsible to make claims that are simply not true. Politics allows all of us a certain poetic licence, but that licence should not be used to spread untruths that increase the stress and anxiety of Queenslanders at their most vulnerable, as at the present time. Apologies are due to our farmers from those opposite.

I must agree with the National Farmers' Federation criticism of the federal Liberal and National Party and, again by implication, the state LNP for their dismal action on climate change. The Canberra deniers will not recognise that action on emissions to address climate change is vital to the future of our farmers, while the state LNP fails to even have an emissions policy. I stand here in unity with the National Farmers' Federation, decrying their lack of action in protecting our farmers.

As I have said many times, farmers live and breathe climate change. They see it every morning. They see it every evening. They see it through their starving stock. They call for action, but see little from those opposite. In fact, they see nothing from those opposite. We hear people loudly bleating that we should get rid of the Paris accord; remove emissions reduction targets; build coal-fired power stations. Those people are no friends of farmers. We stand firm with farmers and their national body. We will address climate change to protect farming now and secure a future on the land for their children and their children's children.

During the debate on the bill we heard all sorts of claims that land officers will be snooping through people's houses, that we will be getting rid of the self-assessable codes and that innocent landholders will be locked up because someone snuck onto their land and miraculously cleared their field of trees. In fact, it is the opposite. Landholders have realised that our sensible and sustainable laws are fair and the community has realised that they are working.

I have visited the properties of landholders who rely on their ability to manage vegetation to run those properties for a variety of reasons. Recently I visited properties near Roma and Charleville. I took the time to speak to farmers and listen to their concerns. Two of the concerns raised during those trips and at other meetings with AgForce and its members were the cost of development applications for thinning vegetation and the perceived deficiency in the SLATS report. I will tell the House a little about how we plan to address those two issues.

The Palaszczuk government has committed funding of \$3.9 million over two years to undertake a scientific program to support an enhanced SLATS, to identify and report on the condition and extent of regrowth vegetation and inform habitat conservation. That will establish a comprehensive monitoring program for vegetation management to better support evidence based policy. Those with a stake in vegetation laws will benefit from an online report that is delivered in a timely manner, leveraging new technologies to show vegetation trends throughout Queensland, including the extent and condition of our native vegetation. Those were concerns that the member for Gympie so rightly raised and we are addressing those concerns.

On the issue of thinning, my department is working with the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning to streamline the process for applying for a development approval using the existing Fast Track 5 streamlined development application process. Under Fast Track 5, applications that comply with basic requirements will receive a decision notice within five business days, compared to the standard process of 40 days. They will not receive any further information requests and, if they comply with the requirements, will receive a standard set of conditions. Those applications will attract a fee of \$809, which is much lower than the normal fee for other assessment processes.

I am working with my colleague the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, who will approve a new version of the state development assessment provisions, including the requirement for Fast Track 5 assessment for applications for managing thickened vegetation, to commence later this year. These measures will ensure that landholders whose land is genuinely affected by the thickening of natural vegetation that is damaging ecosystem processes, as was outlined by the member for Burdekin, will be able to manage their property with minimal delay and, indeed, minimal cost.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): One moment, Minister. Pause the clock. Members, again there is far too much conversation happening within the chamber. Take the conversation outside or listen to the minister with the respect due.

Dr LYNHAM: I return to the issue of fodder harvesting. Earlier I spoke of the deception of the campaign to make farmers think that during drought they can no longer feed their cattle by harvesting mulga. This drought has been devastating and it is important that farmers know that they have our support. Again, I assure landholders that they can still harvest mulga under an assessable development code, that is to say, fodder harvesting is still self-assessable, as it was before our changes to the Vegetation Management Act. It is free, as it was before our changes to the Vegetation Management Act. The code is designed to ensure that the harvesting is sustainable. While there is a limit on the area that can be harvested under one notification, farmers can make as many notifications as they like.

To further clear up any confusion, let me briefly talk through the rules to ensure landholders can understand what they are able to do under our laws. It is not onerous. It is very straightforward. Each notification for fodder harvesting applies for two years and has an area limit of 500 hectares. Five hundred hectares is a substantial amount of land for many graziers. However, if required the landholder can submit a further notification at any time, subject to the completion of a self-audit. The self-audit does not need to be provided to my department. There is no limit to the number of renotifications as long as the requirements of the code are met. In any 10-year period up to 50 per cent of the area of fodder regional ecosystems on a lot can be harvested.

The revised code provides for strip harvesting. They can clear strips up to 50 metres wide. They can also block harvest if they want. The CSIRO stated—and I agree with the Minister for Environment that this is evidence based—that this will aid in mulga regeneration. That is, it will improve the resource for when it is needed in the future. We are improving the mulga resource for farmers out west. We heard about setbacks to wetlands tonight. Setbacks to wetlands of 20 metres and 100 metres for watercourses remain unchanged from their legislation. Harvesting or pushing can be undertaken by machinery.

I feel I need to make special mention of the claim made in the LNP dissenting report that, once pushed over, mulga must be left on the ground and must not be stick raked and/or stacked for burning. While this is true, it remains unchanged from the previous code as introduced by the LNP. Those opposite must be really missing the former member for Hinchinbrook. At least he knew the legislation. At least he knew the code. They miss him dearly. If the former member for Hinchinbrook were here we would not even be debating this. We would not be debating misinformation and untruths.

From 8 March to 31 August 2018 there were 214 notifications for fodder harvesting covering over 92,000 hectares. I am concerned about the farmers who listened to the drivel of those opposite and did not harvest when they should have harvested for their starving stock. Vegetation management is much more than harvesting mulga. It is about the responsible management of a resource vital to the livelihood of many, our environment and our future. We care for farmers.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 43:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 48:


ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Resolved in the negative.

ADJOURNMENT

Suicide

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.58 pm): The suicide epidemic is a gut-wrenching crisis that is ripping up lives in our communities. It is the No. 1 killer of people aged between 15 and 44. I will repeat that: suicide is the No. 1 killer of people aged between 15 and 44. Suicide has a death toll more than double the road toll.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Could members please leave the chamber quietly. I am very keen to hear the member for Maroochydore's contribution.


Ms SIMPSON: Suicide has a death toll more than double the road toll. I say to the Premier and this parliament: this is the conversation we must have. This is the parliamentary inquiry we should have as on average two Queenslanders take their own lives every day. The attempted suicide rate is far higher, with an estimated 30 suicide attempts for every actual suicide.

Front-line workers on the Sunshine Coast have told me that there are 1,000 attempted suicides a year in our region alone, and across Queensland it is many thousands. We must destigmatise suicide by talking about it, but we should not normalise it by accepting it. Some may mistakenly see suicide as a personal and autonomous decision that is no-one else's business, but the impact on those left behind shows that it is a personal tragedy and a society-wide tragedy for the whole community, let alone for the families who stand close to that person.

For every suicide there are about 135 people directly negatively impacted. The impact is not a ripple effect; it is more like a crashing wave of devastation that hits people left behind with grief, guilt, depression and suicidal thoughts as well. When people feel so alone and broken they feel they cannot go on, so depressed they see no hope, so lacking in a personal sense of worth they feel they are a burden to others, so overwhelmed by challenges they cannot see a way through, so unwell they cannot comprehend a brighter future, we must all do better to let them know there is help and to fight to make sure they get that help. We must help.

After previous years when strategies saw reductions in suicide rates, the trend is now increasing. This needs an action plan with the best and most coordinated strategies and a focus from the highest levels of government down to all areas of the community. Suicide Prevention Day is 10 September and R U OK? Day is 13 September. These days help promote those conversations and inform people. We must have more than just a day. We must make this a focus to ensure there is ongoing, effective, coordinated action and the resources are there to make a difference.

Waterford Electorate, Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.01 pm): I rise tonight to draw to the attention of the House some fantastic work of the Palaszczuk government. We are working hard to upskill and re-skill people in my local community of Waterford. Last month I had the opportunity to attend a Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduation industry lunch hosted by an amazing local community organisation YFS. The event was a celebration of an incredible group of women who, through YFS, Substation33 and other wonderful community partners, have gained a Certificate I in Business. It was also an opportunity for these new graduates to network with industry representatives to help them build new meaningful careers.


One of the women I met was Britney Bygrave, a young mum of two kids who has been completing her traineeship at YFS. In talking to Britney I could not help but be inspired by her enthusiasm and work ethic. As a young mum, Britney struggled to find work until she joined YFS. They immediately spotted her potential. With the help of the program, Britney is now empowered and moving forward to bigger and better things. In fact, Tony at Substation33, who is part of the YFS family, told the CEO of YFS, Cath, that she better watch out because he is pretty sure Britney will be coming for her job in maybe five or six years time.

Congratulations to Britney, Whitney, Lucinda, Dulani, Naomi, Megan, Katie and Maria who all completed their traineeship. When you meet these women, you cannot doubt the transformative power of this fantastic program. I am very proud that the Palaszczuk government reinstated this program and is delivering on its commitment to extend the program and increase funding by \$180 million.

Through Skilling Queenslanders for Work we have assisted over 3,000 people in Logan, with 1,763 gaining employment because of the program and a further 500 going on to training. On Friday I attended Paddock to Plate at Beenleigh State High School with the member for Macalister and launched our new Free TAFE campaign. Beenleigh State High School is doing fantastic work with students to give them hands-on experience in the hospitality industry and partner with wonderful ambassadors like chef Matt Golinski. In speaking with Beenleigh High student Marshall Kearns, I could see the importance of the program and the impact it will have on his life. Without the Free TAFE program, Marshall would not have been able to afford to attend TAFE and turn his love of cooking into a career.

We know that investing in training and skills is vital to grow our economy and prepare young people for jobs now and into the future. As the member for Waterford, it is fantastic to see firsthand the impact that these programs are having on members on our Logan community.

Legacy

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (7.04 pm): I rise tonight to celebrate the vital work of Legacy—Australia's iconic welfare institution, which I am proud to say is the only one of its kind in the world. This week is Legacy Week—the annual national appeal to raise funds for the families of those who have served in war, peacekeeping or humanitarian missions and who have given their lives or their health for their country.

Legacy importantly supports families suffering financially and socially after the incapacitation or death of a spouse or parent during or after their defence service. Across Australia, Legacy supports over 60,000 spouses and children, many of whom live in Queensland.

Legacy volunteers, many of whom are ex-service men and women, are known as Legatees, and they bring important education, counselling, housing, medical, advocacy and social support to the families of veterans. Significantly, what sets Legacy apart from many other organisations is the focus on personal contact with individual widows and families. In my home on the Sunshine Coast, Legatees have performed tasks like installing rainwater tanks at the rural property of an elderly widow in her 90s who was not physically or financially able to do so herself.

During my service, the thing that concerned me more than anything was the thought of how my loved ones would be affected in the event that I was killed or suffered from a serious injury. Like many other service personnel, I took great comfort in knowing that my loved ones would be supported by organisations like Legacy should the worst happen.


This week Queenslanders will see service men and women, along with civilian volunteers, in shopping centres, airports and elsewhere asking for the community to support Legacy. I implore all Queenslanders to support this worthy organisation that provides support to those who have sacrificed so much.

I have a box of Legacy badges that I will make available for sale over the week. I invite my colleagues to buy a badge and to stand with me in sending a clear message of support from the Queensland parliament. It is about recognising the past, present and future sacrifices that families of veterans make and it is about saying thank you to the Legacy volunteers for their selfless service.

The face of Legacy is a 14-month-old baby, a 109-year-old man and every kind of face in between. Legacy is as relevant today as it was when it was established in 1923. To my mind, this only highlights the relevance and importance of its work.

On behalf of all currently serving members of the Australian Defence Force and veterans, I would like to say thank you to Legacy for the support it provides to widows and the children of veterans. As I mentioned, I know that many veterans find solace in the knowledge that Legacy will always be there for their loved ones when they need help the most.

TAFE

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.07 pm): I rise in the House tonight to welcome the Palaszczuk government's initiative to extend free TAFE to all year 12 graduates in Queensland. This is a world changer for all those young Queenslanders who are finishing or have just finished high school. I truly thank the Minister for Training and Skills Development for creating this opportunity.

The minister announced that, if you start a high-priority qualification at TAFE within 12 months of leaving year 12, the Queensland government will cover the cost of your training. That will change lives of many 18-year-olds in Bancroft. I think in particular of the graduates from Deception Bay State High School. Deception Bay High has become a leader in Queensland. It specialises in providing vocational education and training to students. It offers seven certificate I qualifications, 14 certificate II qualifications and seven certificate III courses internally. It is registered as an RTO and delivers training to seven high schools.


In 2018, 363 students were awarded certificates I, II or III from Deception Bay High under the Australian Qualifications Framework. It has been incredibly successful. Enrolment is going up about 10 per cent a year. I want to thank acting principal Kyrra Mickelborough for her outstanding leadership. Our Free TAFE initiative will make Deception Bay State High School even more successful.

Free TAFE will open up opportunities for working-class kids throughout Deception Bay. It is another practical measure from the Palaszczuk government to get them into work and training, but it is much more than that. It is a signal to young people, a prompt for them, to aspire to higher education. It encourages them to believe that it is their right to receive higher education, to learn and to get decent and fair qualifications. It encourages them to believe that university or higher education is not just the preserve of kids from expensive schools. It encourages them to believe that TAFE will not slip out of reach for them because it is unaffordable.

This drive to get kids into higher education is reflected within federal Labor as well. We heard today from Tanya Plibersek, the opposition spokeswoman for education, that a federal Labor government will deliver \$175 million in funding to develop and implement programs to encourage young people to study at university. She made that announcement today in the Moreton Bay region, as only 13 per cent of young people in our area go to university, compared to over 50 per cent of young people in the inner-Brisbane area.

Only Labor has the drive to create those opportunities to get young people into higher education. That is the core of what we do as Labor—that is, create that equality of opportunity for all. I welcome working with federal Labor to hear about this funding program aimed at specific groups and geographic areas, and to hear how they are going to partner with our TAFEs, high schools and universities to make sure that the young people in our area can aspire to so much more.

Vegetation Management

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.10 pm): I rise tonight to speak on behalf of the primary producers in my electorate of Southern Downs who have been unfairly disadvantaged by the actions of the government under the Nature Conservation Act 1992. I want to speak about what are colloquially known as 'blue dots', which are markings on environment department maps that purport to show where endangered plant species might be present.

Each blue dot on a landholder's property creates a staggering 3,100-acre circle on that spot in which clearing, cultivation and improvement of land are prohibited. It is up to the landholder to pay the considerable costs of a consultant biologist to demonstrate that the protected species in question is not in fact present before the full rights of their land use are restored. Landholders can be suddenly faced with having huge areas made unavailable for production, whether or not a protected plant species is in fact present. Having blue dots all over their property devalues a landholder's property, especially when they are considering retirement and they want to sell and their retirement savings are effectively void.


A lack of common sense and a heavy-handed application of the act and its regulations hurt primary producers in my electorate. For example, there is Mr Linden Charles, whose properties are affected by blue dots concerning a species of cycad. He has more than 10,000 acres of land tied up

under blue dots and he has spent many thousands of dollars on surveying the presence of this cycad. It transpires that the cycad is only present in the areas where he has improved his property and farmed it. It is not in any places where the remnant vegetation still exists on his land.

The obvious conclusion is that it is his farming activities and his grazing activities that have preserved and spread this endangered species. If the purpose of the act is to protect threatened species, this application of the act appears to achieve the opposite and at enormous personal cost to Mr Charles. There is also the case of Mr Graham Flood, whose property is beset by blue dots that he maintains apply to a neighbouring property, not his own. Yet he too is obliged to spend thousands of dollars on consultants to prove his case whilst in the meantime he cannot use his land as he wishes.

I have written to the environment minister about these cases, and I thank her for the courtesy and the promptness of her replies. However, she has not dealt with my pleas that common sense should prevail to stop obvious injustices to landholders like Mr Charles and Mr Flood. If the government were serious about helping struggling farmers in rural communities in these times of terrible drought, they would show some common sense here and ease up on farmers like Messrs Charles and Flood. We need to let common sense prevail and let farmers use their land as they wish.

Women's Health Week


 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.13 pm): This week is Women's Health Week. According to a recent survey, whilst Australian women are smoking less and exercising more, most still feel anxious on a daily basis. The Women's Health Survey—conducted by not-for-profit organisation Jean Hailes for Women's Health—interviewed 15,000 women from across Australia. The survey found that almost 70 per cent of women felt nervous, anxious or on edge nearly every day and 34 per cent reported that they did not get enough time to themselves on a weekly basis. While 70 per cent reported doing at least two hours of exercise per week, more than 50 per cent described themselves as overweight or obese. The data provides compelling insights into the wellbeing of today's women who have been christened the sandwich generation as they grapple with children and careers on one end and ageing parents on the other.

Certainly, from my discussions with women in my electorate, a lack of time is seen as one of the biggest barriers to women making positive health changes. The survey showed that, whilst more than 78 per cent of Queensland women said they could easily get to a doctor and local health service if required, almost 57 per cent said they did not have enough time in their day to attend appointments for health checks. I know the Queensland government is doing some great work in the space of preventative health—such as My Health for Life, a fantastic program where participants receive personalised health coaching and support; and the 'Healthier. Happier.' website through Queensland Health which focuses on the small changes that can help women be that little bit healthier.

For this Women's Health Week, I teamed up with some local health services and small businesses in my electorate using myself as the guinea pig to encourage all women in the Jordan electorate to put themselves first and make their own good health a priority. It was great to spend time with the team at Souffit Studio in Springfield Central for a boxing session—and that was really good fun—knowing that physical activity and exercise can have immediate and long-term benefits. I also got my teeth checked by Dr Ann from Flagsmile Dental in Flagstone and my eyes tested by Dr Paul from Springfield Lakes Eyecare, as we now know that healthy teeth, gums and eyes can be a good indicator of your general health and flag potential problems.

I had some amazing healthy food prepared by the wonderful team at Raw Energy, who also happen to be next to my office so there was no excuse there. Finally, I caught up with the wonderful clinical staff at the Mater Private Hospital in Springfield to discuss the importance of women having more regular health checks, including blood pressure screening, cervical cancer screening, cholesterol checks, breast cancer screening and diabetes checks. I would like to thank all of the great businesses and health services which joined me in this mini campaign to give women in the Jordan electorate a gentle but firm nudge to take greater care of themselves this Women's Health Week.

Hill Electorate, Water Supply


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.16 pm): I wish to raise the burden of current boil water restrictions on communities on the Tablelands and the implications if these restrictions continue indefinitely. On 17 January this year, the Tablelands Regional Council issued boil water notices to communities across the southern Tablelands on advice from Queensland Health and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. It has now been eight months and boil water notices are still in place for the

Ravenshoe, Bellview, Cassowary, Millstream, Carrington and Herberton supply schemes. It is appalling that this government is unable or unwilling to do what is necessary to provide these communities with clean, drinkable water.

Schools do not have the facilities to boil water in accordance with public health standards and have to provide students and staff with bottled water at enormous costs and increased pressure on resources and staff. There is a growing number of plastic bottles piling up as the community is forced to purchase bottled water or store boiled water. The business community is gutted as caravan tourists, who are greeted with boil-water notices as they come into town, have to drive through to towns that can provide the clean water they require. This is a community that depends heavily on its share of the Tablelands \$120 million tourism industry. These communities have fought hard to capitalise on the beautiful environment and the historical assets to attract more grey nomads to the town.

The community is sick of being shuttled between government bodies, with everybody throwing their hands in the air and saying that nothing can be done. The state government needs to invest in significant infrastructure to meet Queensland Health standards. There have been alternative bore and groundwater sources put forward by community members to address the water turbidity issues. It is imperative that the government takes responsibility to resolve this problem before the next wet season further drags out this problem.

Gladstone Electorate, Drought Appeal; NRL Women's

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (7.18 pm): I would like to speak tonight on a recent fundraiser I held in Gladstone to help with the drought relief appeal that we see going on in Queensland. The title of the fundraiser was 'Butch bakes for bales'. Basically, the idea was that we would bake some cupcakes and sell them at Craig's Bakery, a local bakery. I first talked about this with a few of my staff. Jill Hopson, who works for me, used to own a property in the Boyne Valley and she is very passionate about the plight of the farmers and the drought that is happening at the moment. Jill's idea was not just to get our local community on board to support the drought; she went well above that and went to a local bakery, Craig's Bakery, and set the whole day up.

Basically, we talked to Ron and Renee Craig, who own the local bakery in Gladstone, and they were very supportive of the idea. Not only did they support the idea, but they baked over 350 cupcakes for us to sell out the front of their shop one morning. They donated all the money that went into baking the cakes. All the staff also donated their own time to help prepare the cakes and put the toppings on to ensure we could raise some money for these farmers for drought relief.


On the day we had 350 cupcakes to sell. We raised nearly \$3,000 in an hour and a half to put towards the drought relief appeal, which was absolutely fantastic. On that morning the QCWA, the Country Women's Association, from Gladstone, Calliope and surrounding branches came in and helped us sell the cupcakes and talked to the people about the drought issues they had been hearing. Those ladies were absolutely amazing. They worked all morning. They helped set up and pack everything away. They even helped count all the money at the end of the day to make sure it was going to the right places.

As we discussed, it is fantastic that all of the money that was raised that day with the QCWA as well as the money from the bucket that sat in the bakery for the rest of the week will be going to local farmers who are doing it tough. If anyone reads or hears about anyone from the local area around Gladstone and surrounds who is doing it tough, by all means they can pop into my office and grab a form. The money will go directly to them to help get them through these tough times. That will help get that money to where it is needed most.

While I am on my feet, I want to give a shout-out to two local Gladstone girls, Kody House and Chelsea Baker, who played in the first original women's Broncos team on the weekend. It was a very proud moment to see both those girls running out and playing for the best team in Queensland in the NRL, the mighty Broncos.

Mr SPEAKER: I am not sure I can fully agree with the last statement.

Healthy Waterways

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.21 pm): The most basic of essential needs for our mental and physical health, our economy and our ability to sustain is also what is irreplaceable: clean water, clean air and unpolluted soil. Yet why is it that when concerns are raised about the contamination of any of these we take so long to take action before they escalate to major incidents?


It has been reported that residents around Walsh River and Jamie Creek, south-west of Cairns, can no longer drink, swim in or use that water due to contamination from a copper mine. How did it come to this? Even those downstream who are dependent on this water for livestock and crops have been impacted. Could this have been avoided given the first major pollution event at this site occurred in 2012, six years ago? These questions raise further questions, including how many other similar issues have been raised and not addressed across Queensland that directly impact our very basics of clean water and soil? Are there further major environmental incidents waiting to happen?

This topic is not raised to condemn or blame; it is to highlight an area where we can, and need to, improve our processes, including response times. We have many agencies, departments, not-for-profits and programs including the Healthy Waterways partnerships that are committed to ensuring that our waterways remain pollution free. We have rules, regulations, legislation, policy and a raft of mechanisms to monitor and manage within a framework. However, there must be a gap in which these major incidents can occur, and we need to identify these and address them as a matter of urgency. For example, is our Healthy Waterways program broad enough? Currently, there are limitations as to what is tested and monitored under this program, including a lack of testing for chemicals that are of concern to communities.

The Noosa River is my electorate's lifeline, providing for our economy, lifestyle and environmental health. Concerns have been raised by residents regarding the use of specific chemicals historically and the ongoing effect these may have on the river and its surrounds. The Noosa fish task force was set up in 2009 to investigate a range of fish health problems at a local fish hatchery, with a final report released in 2011. In 2018 a number of recommendations that came from this investigation are yet to be implemented, with no further testing or monitoring for specific chemicals that could alleviate the concerns and questions about our river health.

Let's be proactive to develop processes and resources to enable quick response times to concerns that assess, test and address. Solution based processes are needed to mitigate, prevent and circumnavigate contamination to protect the most essential components that are vital to our very existence: clean air, water and soil. Prevention and early intervention make good economic sense because what are the costs to Queenslanders, in dollars and health, of cleaning up after major contaminations or living with the aftermath?

Rockhampton, Fishing

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.24 pm): Rockhampton will no longer be known as the beef capital; it is also the home of the barramundi and threadfin salmon. Since the fishing nets were removed from the Fitzroy River as part of the Palaszczuk government's 2015 election commitment, we have seen record numbers of trophy fish being caught and they are of a good size.

There are very few places where people can fly in, put their gear into a first-class motel and be out on the water in as little as an hour. Honourable members should imagine a place where they can catch a metre-long barra with the Rocky CBD in the background. Fishing identity John Haenke, owner of Guided Fishing DownUnder and also director of Offshore Productions, believes that Rocky is right up there, if not better, than the rest as a great destination to catch good barra and threadfin.

The Fitzroy River was the only Australian location to feature on World Fishing Day. We are fortunate that there are so many other options available. We have the islands and Port Alma just down the road. There are a lot more options in Rockhampton than there are in most areas in the country. People are not aware of how good the fishing is around Rocky. It would be great if more people came to Rockhampton to experience how good the fishing is. The islands have all the tropical species such as coral trout, red emperor and Spanish mackerel to name a few. Pretty much every tropical species that exists in Australia can be caught in Central Queensland.

The weather in Central Queensland is also a major drawcard. No matter what the weather is doing—even if it is windy—there are so many places to go. Rocky is an easy, accessible location. It is just a quick trip out of Brisbane or a reasonable drive. A lot of other locations have very expensive flights or people may need to catch a couple of flights to get there.

It is exciting to see that across the region there is a whole lot of new charter businesses being established. There are now eight charter boats running on the Fitzroy River. If people do not want to go on a fishing charter, the Rockhampton Regional Council, in conjunction with the Palaszczuk Labor government, has invested in land based fishing platforms. Last week I had the honour of opening the new north-side boat ramp to further cement Rockhampton's potential as a well-known fishing hub.

The House adjourned at 7.28 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson